Summer Academic Challenge
University of Puget Sound’s Summer Academic Challenge is an enrichment program designed to help middle and high school students strengthen their skills in science and math. Through partnerships with local schools and families, we hope to create greater academic opportunities for young people to help them become better prepared for college and beyond.

What students say about Summer Academic Challenge
88 percent of students who participated in 2012 said Summer Academic Challenge made them feel more comfortable on a college campus.

“I feel better prepared for next year.” J. McMichael

“This program boosts my confidence in math and science because I have a better understanding of them.”
2012 Summer Academic Challenge student
Who should attend Summer Academic Challenge?

We look for students who work hard at all their studies; students who show great promise, but who may not yet be achieving their full potential; and students who are already high achievers. We believe a diverse mix of student aptitudes and backgrounds is an asset to the program and aids in the success of all participants.

All Summer Academic Challenge students must currently attend a public school. They must be willing to apply themselves, and they must be prepared to learn.

Program Design

Summer Academic Challenge enables students to see how subjects they study in school are used in the world around them.

Our curriculum is designed as a four-week program exploring themes in math, science, technology, and communication. In addition to time in the classroom and workshops on writing and oral presentation skills, students participate in field trips and special events related to the program theme, which changes each year. Past years’ themes have included flight, sustainability, and salmon survival.

Teachers are drawn from both the community and the university, and current university students serve as mentors and teaching assistants. Classes are project based and require teamwork and collaboration. It is imperative that students who participate—and their parents/guardians—be committed to the student being present and fully engaged each day of the program.

Classes are divided into three groups, based on grade level in the fall:

- Gold (grades 7–8)
- Green (grades 9–10)
- Blue (grades 10–12)

In addition to regular class activities, Blue group members prepare for college testing and the college application process.

College Scholarship Opportunity

Puget Sound will provide a package that meets the full financial need of Summer Academic Challenge students who wish to attend the college, if they meet the following criteria:

1. Successfully complete Summer Academic Challenge
2. Graduate from high school
3. Apply to, are admitted, and enroll at Puget Sound

Apply Now

To receive an application for Summer Academic Challenge, send an email message to access@pugetsound.edu or contact the Access Programs office at 253.879.3927.

Sponsors

Summer Academic Challenge is a tuition-free program. University of Puget Sound supports the program with the help of numerous corporations, foundations, and members of the community. For more information about our sponsors, visit pugetsound.edu/access.