

# Summer Honors Institute

Two separate weeks to be selected to attend- July 5-11, 2015 & July 12-18, 2015



The JMU Summer Honors Institute is a unique week-long program where talented rising high school seniors get a first-hand look at life in a dynamic university and its Honors program.

**As a JMU Summer Honors student you can:**

- Experience the excitement of life at a great university
- Take hands-on courses with outstanding faculty
- Explore careers and academic majors from the sciences, humanities, arts, business, and social sciences
- Learn about how college Honors programs can help you make the most of your college experience
- Attend admissions workshops and enhance your college applications
- Live in a residence hall and explore the JMU campus
- Go hiking in the mountains, whitewater rafting, and do other fun activities in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley

**Who can attend:**

Up to 25 (each week) talented high school students who have completed their junior year will be accepted to attend following a competitive application process.

**Deadline:**

Decision deadline May 15, 2015.

Application available at:

- ✦ <http://www.jmu.edu/honorsprog/>
- ✦ <http://www.jmu.edu/outreach/programs/all/honorscamp/application.shtml>

# Program Details



Each day will begin with the **Honors Core Course**. Students will choose from one of two core courses offered during the week. These interdisciplinary courses explore complex topics that deal with contemporary issues in society, culture, technology, and the sciences. Together with your fellow Summer Honors students and the professor, you will grapple with some of the big picture questions that embody an Honors education.

## Session 1

### "From Black Elk to Black Holes"

Is knowledge acquired through the five senses the only reliable knowledge, or can knowing "from within" be equally reliable? Do you have a personal "myth of meaning?" Is there an American "myth of meaning?" If so, are your personal myth and our societal myth congruent? A good way to explore these deep questions is to step outside our usual frame of reference and into that of a different culture. We will do just that by listening intently to America's indigenous voices. Among these is the enduring voice of Lakota ("Sioux") holy man Nicholas Black Elk, whose remarkable story, recounted in *Black Elk Speaks* (1932), inspires generation after generation by its timeless wisdom and spiritual power.

### "Robot Studies: Artificial Intelligence, Culture, and Automation"

What does it mean to live in an automated society? What will become of human culture? In this course, we will re-imagine our humanity in a world of artificial intelligences and robots, confront those appealing for the technological singularity and a post-biological universe, and explore new opportunities for computer-aided human creativity.

## Session 2

### "American Culture Viewed through a Comparative Lens"

Have you ever wondered why Americans live like they live? Why do they value having only one spouse at a time? Why do they tend to have small families? Why do they think they must go to college to get a good job? And why do they buy so much stuff? This short course in cultural anthropology will explore these questions and more, and will help you gain a cross-cultural and historical perspective on yourself and your own home culture.

## "Biology in the Movies"

Advances in genetics and development biology allow scientists to manipulate genes, cells, and embryos in ways that increasingly challenge traditional concepts of human identity and could permanently alter the structure of human society. At the same time, media bombard the public with science-based entertainment that is timely, engaging, and at some level credible to an increasingly savvy and demanding audience. This course explores the intersection of these trends by addressing how popular culture presents science in movies and the potential costs of its misrepresentation. Topics include human cloning, genetic engineering, origin and evolution of humans, and artificial and extraterrestrial intelligence.

The rest of the morning and afternoon will be spent in **subject-area classes**. Students will take different classes each day in majors such as Mathematics, History, Astronomy, Political Science, Geography, Finance; Biotechnology, English, Computer Science, Economics, Religion, Physics, Marketing, Geology, and more. Taught by outstanding faculty members from around the university, these courses are designed to be interactive and hands on. You will engage with the professors and your fellow classmates, working together in a fun and dynamic learning environment. With a selection of courses to choose from, you will be able to craft a program that lets you explore majors you are interested in. In addition to classes, students will attend a number of **information sessions** throughout the week on topics such as college admissions and career exploration.

*Summer Honors Institute courses are not eligible for JMU credit.*

Afternoons and evenings are reserved for **field trips and fun activities**. Summer Honors students will explore the Shenandoah Valley through activities such as hiking the Appalachian Trail, or enjoying a picnic at a park. You might be able to grab dinner at a restaurant on Harrisonburg's historic Courthouse Square. On campus, you will be able to make use of some of JMU's fantastic facilities, such as the University Recreation Center and the planetarium.

The living-learning environment in the **Wampler residence hall** will bring you together with your fellow Summer Honors students and give you a sense of what your first year of college life will be like. Peer counselors, who are current JMU Honors students, will guide you throughout the week and share their experiences with you along the way.

Even if JMU is not the right college for you, the Summer Honors Institute will introduce you to the kinds of experiences you can expect from a university Honors program, and will distinguish you as an exceptional student who is looking to make the most of your college experience.

## Cost:

The cost is a \$800 residential fee to participating students, which covers instructions, class materials, housing, meals and social activities. Consider bringing money for snacks, bookstore and personal.

Partial scholarships may be available to applicants who demonstrate a financial need. Please contact Katie LaPira at [lapirakm@jmu.edu](mailto:lapirakm@jmu.edu) to fill out an additional financial assistance application form.



