A Summer Experience for Academically Gifted Students Currently in Grades Five Through Eight

June 27 through July 29, 2011
As we begin launching our Summer programs, I want to extend a warm welcome to students and parents. I am very excited to be here at this point in the University of California, Irvine's evolution.

For over 20 years, UCI has offered a summer program of specialized curriculum for gifted middle school students, such as you. We welcome your participation in this exciting program which has been developed to assist you in beginning to direct your life toward a scholarly collegiate path. We provide you with an environment that will enable you to experience and appreciate life on a university campus.

With all the activities in your life as a productive middle school student, there isn’t always time for you to think seriously about where you want to be in a few years from now. If higher education is anywhere in your plans, spending time at a major university, such as UCI, will help you to clarify your goals. Most importantly, the Gifted Students Academy will help prepare you for the competitive university admission procedure.

I strongly encourage you to participate fully in the challenges and fun of the UCI Gifted Students Academy. Please join us on the UCI campus this summer. I look forward to meeting you.

Michael Drake
Chancellor, UCI

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“I just wanted to let you know that both my children had a terrific time with the program this summer. We really appreciated the approach and enthusiasm of your instructors, and especially of the staff ratio. I think their memory of your weeks are of excitement, and well balanced mind and body work. We look forward to next year.” —GSA Parent
The Gifted Students Academy at UCI is a unique opportunity for gifted students to dramatically expand their understanding of the world around them and to be part of a nurturing and challenging community of learners. Gifted students have a special role in the world, and have their own intellectual, social, and emotional needs. This knowledge provides the foundation for a holistic learning experience for your child at the Gifted Students Academy.

Beyond the educational advantage your child receives by participating in a program grounded in the latest scholarship in gifted education, the experience of living and learning on a college campus expands students’ horizons and perceptions of themselves in a powerful way.

We look forward to meeting your student and sharing all that UCI has to offer.

Stephanie Reyes-Tuccio, Ph.D.
Director, Center for Educational Partnerships

As Director of UCI’s Gifted Students Academy, I am pleased to invite you to participate in our summer program. I welcome your participation in this exciting experience. Our program has been designed to assist you in beginning to direct your life toward a scholarly university experience.

Regardless of the courses you select, I assure you that you will find yourself thinking in new ways. You will be exposed to great new ideas. You will learn new exciting problem solving strategies and you will become a part of a community of learners with interests like yourself. Within this community of fellow students from all parts of California and the world, you will build special friendships that will last well beyond your stay at UCI.

Our staff is available to help you with all aspects of your UCI Gifted Students Academy experience. We can help you plan your choice of courses and guide you to your educational future. Join us for the UCI Gifted Students Academy program. I’ll be looking for you. I hope to meet your parents, too.

Darlene Boyd, Ed.D.
Director, UCI Gifted Students Academy
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About UCI

The University of California, Irvine is situated on 1500 acres of rolling coastal foothills between the cities of Irvine and Newport Beach. It offers you the opportunity to study at an academically challenging research university with faculty who are nationally and internationally known scholars, scientists, and artists.

Founded in 1965, the University of California, Irvine combines the strengths of a major research university with the bounty of an incomparable Southern California location. With a commitment to cutting-edge research, teaching, learning and creativity, UCI is a driving force of innovation and discovery that benefits our local, national and global communities in multiple ways.

With more than 22,000 undergraduate students, UCI is among the fastest-growing campuses in the University of California system. UCI offers a variety of honors programs, which provide challenging opportunities for outstanding students like you to develop your exceptional talent and ability.

Quality Curriculum and Instruction

The Academy faculty adapts instruction and course content to your special abilities. Each course aims to engage your mind with critical and creative thinking skills infused across the curriculum. Many of the courses are interdisciplinary, covering more than one area of study. For example, the writing course combines thinking, argumentation and writing skills. All courses help you to develop better test taking skills.

Most courses encourage you to collaborate with your peers, working in groups of students with similar ability. Utilizing university resources, you gain an insider's view of a major research institution. For example, if you take a science course, you will have access to some of the university's world-class laboratories, such as those used by UCI Nobel Laureates Professor F. Sherwood Rowland, chemistry, and the late Professor Frederick Reines, physics and astronomy.

Many guest lecturers are UCI affiliated researchers or staff members. Our instructors are highly qualified middle school, high school, university or community college teachers. Instructors are recruited for expertise in their subject area and experience with academically talented students.
Eligibility

You are eligible to apply for the Gifted Students Academy if you are presently in Grades 5 - 8 for the 2010-2011 school year, and if you have satisfied one of the requirements below:

- if you have successfully participated in the UCI Academic Talent Search.
- if you have scored in the 95th through 99th percentile on any subtest in math or verbal reasoning of a recent standardized achievement test. (Please mail or fax a copy of your most recent results along with a letter of recommendation signed by a gifted / GATE counselor or school administrator.)
- if you have been identified as gifted by an accredited school or school district (documentation of status as GATE student must be provided).
- if you are an alumnus of UCI Gifted Students Academy from 2008 - 2010, you do not need to submit any additional documentation. However, you do have to indicate on the application the year(s) you attended for record verification.

Application and Registration Procedures

Apply to the Gifted Students Academy and register for classes by completing the application online at www.giftedstudents.uci.edu.

The deadline for submitting an application for admission to the UCI Gifted Students Academy is Friday, May 27, 2011. We urge you to apply early as space is limited. Eligible students are admitted on a first come, first served basis. Enrollments continue after the deadline on a space available basis.

You should indicate your choice of:

- Session(s) A, B, C, D and dates.
- Morning course
  You must indicate three choices even though you will only be assigned one morning choice per session.
- Afternoon course
  You must indicate three choices even though you will only be assigned one afternoon choice per session.

Second and third choices of morning and afternoon courses are required and must be indicated on the application course selection page. You cannot choose the same courses twice per session.

NOTE: All of the documentation must accompany your application. Discovery of falsely reported student test data will be considered grounds for expulsion from the program. No refunds will be made to students dismissed from the program. Applications cannot be processed until all requested information is completed. Incomplete applications will be returned which could delay your application process.

The heavy volume of Academy applications makes it difficult to give first choices to everyone. Please make sure that the session dates you have designated will conform to any personal future-planning eventuality.

Two weeks prior to each session, you will receive a CLASS CONFIRMATION PACKET by mail containing Morning and Afternoon class assignment, drop-off information, and complete program details.

An email verifying application completion and preliminary program acceptance will be sent to the parent’s email address after we have processed student's enrollment. Please be sure to provide an updated contact email address on the registration form so that we may keep you updated and informed.
Registration Fees

The registration fees for the UCI Gifted Students Academy are:

- Commuter session (A, B, C and D) is $735 (includes lunch) plus an additional non-refundable application fee of $50.

- Residential session (A, B and C) is $995 (includes meals) plus an additional non-refundable application/housing services fee of $100. Note: Several courses have lab fees, which are outlined in the course descriptions.

Confirmation packets and student class assignments are sent 2 weeks prior to each session.

International Students

For international students, there is a non-refundable application fee of $50 plus a $100 deposit. This $100 payment will be applied to the total cost of the program when you are accepted to the UCI Gifted Students Academy.

Please complete online registration and include appropriate eligibility documents with your payment. Checks should be made payable to UC Regents. Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express are also accepted.

There are NO REFUNDS EXCEPT if serious accidents or illness prevents an accepted student from entering or completing a scheduled session. A partial refund will be made upon a request made in writing by the parent or guardian, accompanied by a doctor’s written statement. The Academy Director will make such refund decisions. This is the only exception to the "no refund" policy.

Students who meet the minimum eligibility requirements, but are denied admission to the UCI Gifted Students Academy due to lack of space will receive a full refund of their registration fee. This policy does not apply to students who are admitted but placed in a course other than their first choice of major and/or elective.

If an emergency warrants a transfer in classes or sessions, an additional processing fee of $25 may be incurred.

“I really enjoyed my time this past summer at GSA. My teachers were really cool and the size of the class allowed us to really work one-on-one. This experience gave me an idea of what’s it’s like to live in a dorm and allowed me to learn about the UCI campus.”

—GSA Student
Student Conduct

Students may be dismissed from the Gifted Students Academy for any of the following reasons: not attending to their academic work in a satisfactory manner; not cooperating with their instructors; possession or use of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco; leaving the campus unaccompanied by a staff member or guardian; stealing; misuse of or damage to university equipment or property; or any violation of the safety or well-being of any person. Residential students are required to follow additional rules and may be dismissed for being absent from their rooms after lights-out, or not cooperating with their residential advisor (RA). No refunds will be made to students dismissed from the program.

Attendance is taken in every class. Absences are reported daily. Parents are notified of absences. If a student must be absent for any reason, it is important that the Gifted Students Academy Office be notified by parent or guardian in advance in order to maintain accurate attendance records and to notify the student’s teacher.

Commuter Schedule

8:50 A.M. Drop-Off (no students are to be dropped off and left unattended prior to 8:50 A.M.)
9:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. Morning Class
12:30 - 1:15 P.M. Lunch
1:15 - 3:45 P.M. Afternoon Class
4:00 - 4:15 P.M. Pick-Up

NOTE: All commuter students must be picked up by 4:15 p.m. If an emergency occurs, the Gifted Students Academy Office must be notified at (949) 824-5069. Students not picked up by 4:15 will be returned to the Housing Conference Service Office to await pick up.

Residential Schedule

7:00 - 8:45 A.M. Breakfast
9:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. Morning Class
12:30 - 1:15 P.M. Lunch
1:15 - 3:45 P.M. Afternoon Class
3:45 - 4:30 P.M. Return to Dorm / Prepare for group activities / Make phone calls
4:30 - 5:30 P.M. Activities
5:30 - 6:30 P.M. Dinner
6:30 - 8:00 P.M. Activities / Special Programs/ Dorm Meetings / Make phone calls
8:00 - 9:30 P.M. Study Time
9:30 - 10:30 P.M. Free Time / Dorm Gatherings
10:30 P.M. Lights Out

Commuter Meals

The cost of commuter lunch is included in the fee. All students, residential and commuters, will have lunch in the campus Dining Hall at the residence housing complex. Meals are served cafeteria style, and the menu offers a wide selection of food with fresh fruit and an array of salads daily. The cost of commuter lunch is included in the fee. No students will be permitted to eat in any other area. Meal wristbands are used for admission to the Dining Hall. You will be charged a $20 fee if your student loses his/her wristband.

“My two classes were Biology and Physics. I liked the classes because I learned so many new things. This experience encouraged me to have fun and learn at the same time.”

—GSA Student
More Program Information

Residential Meals
All students, residential and commuters, will have lunch in the campus residential Dining Hall. Students have pre-paid meal plans. Meals are served cafeteria style, and the menu offers a wide selection of food with fresh fruit and an array of salads daily. Meals are served three times per day.

Hours of Operation
The residence halls are closed to students on weekends. Parents or guardians must agree to make their own living arrangements for their children each Friday from 5:00 P.M. to Sunday at 4:00 P.M. if student is attending back to back sessions.

Residency Fees
The registration fee for residential students includes courses, room and meals, and activities. Applicants applying to live in a residential hall must include full payment of the residence hall fee in advance. The residency fee will be refunded in full if UCI is unable to accommodate the student. NOTE: Each residential student receives a meal wristband upon arrival along with a room key card. If either one, or both of these items are misplaced, damaged or not returned at the time of check out, you will be billed with the following charges: $25 for the key card and $20 for the meal wristband.

Residence Halls
Spaces are limited in the residence hall. Requests are filled on a first come, first served basis and notification will be included in the acceptance letter and class schedule mailing in mid June.

Academy students will be housed in UCI’s residential halls. These residential halls are divided into suites of four or five double rooms (single rooms are not available), with living room and bath; each residence hall also contains a lounge, recreation and study rooms. Each room has carpeting and is furnished with a bed, chair, chest of drawers, closet and bookshelves for each student. Students are assigned roommates of similar age. Students may indicate a roommate preference on your application, but the Academy administrative staff makes final roommate assignments.

Lost Items
Parents should note that UCI assumes no responsibility for lost, stolen, or damaged articles during the program. Please remind your student to keep track of personal items.

Residential Advisors
Residential students are supervised throughout their stay on campus by Gifted Students Academy staff. Resident Advisors (RAs) supervise students outside the classroom. Residential advisors (RAs) are UCI undergraduate and graduate young adults who have received special training in working with gifted youth prior to the program.

Medical Services
Emergency medical services are available for students at the UCI Student Health Center. Facilities include a complete out patient clinic staffed by physicians and nurses, supported by an X-ray and clinical laboratory. All parents must complete and sign the “Emergency Information Release” section of the application as a condition of admission to the UCI Gifted Students Academy.

NOTE: It is the parent’s responsibility to have primary party health insurance.
Courses

Session Dates and Registration Fees*

Commuter Student
Sessions A, B, C and D: $735
Session A: Mon. June 27 - Fri. July 1
Session B: Mon. July 11 - Fri. July 15
Session C: Mon. July 18 - Fri. July 22
Session D: Mon. July 25 - Fri. July 29

Residential Student
Sessions A, B, C Only: $995
Session A: Sun. June 26 - Fri. July 1
Session B: Sun. July 10 - Fri. July 15
Session C: Sun. July 17 - Fri. July 22

* Some courses have additional lab/ materials fee requirements.

Morning Courses

BIOLOGY
Survey some of the important principles, philosophies, and phenomena of biology. Animal and plant groupings are investigated through daily hands-on laboratory activities. On-campus visitations of working labs are included.

Note: A $30 Lab Fee is required for this class.

CHEMISTRY
Experiment daily with laboratory learning activities and demonstrate basic types of chemical reactions including exothermic, endothermic, single replacement, double replacement, decomposition and synthesis. The periodic table and factors involving rates of reactions are also emphasized in the learning environment of a university research laboratory.

Note: The UCI campus has safety regulations for the protection of students conducting experiments in laboratories.

Students are required to wear long pants at all times. UCI Laboratories are air conditioned and well ventilated.

A $75 Lab Fee is required for this class.

DRAMA, THEATRE STUDY, AND SHAKESPEARE
In this course, students will participate in many theatre games and improvisations. These exercises are great fun, and they help to stimulate both “thinking on your feet” and increasing your confidence for public speaking and oral presentations. Students will also perform from the works of Shakespeare. By playing multiple roles, students will “become the characters” in many scenes. Characters and scenes will be analyzed line by line so that participants are not only certain about what is happening within the context of the material, but also aware of Shakespeare’s subtle use of rhyme, meter, incredible prose, and irony. We will examine specific plays and characters, and also pay close attention to a wide variety of monologues. This class will provide students with key strategies for successfully understanding drama, theatre, and classical literature.

ETYMOLOGIES
Etymologies is the study of Latin and Greek elements that form a large part of the English language vocabulary. Knowledge of these basic elements enables you to expand your vocabulary and reading comprehension in all academic disciplines. Course work involves whole-group instruction as well as opportunities for independent study based upon individual student interests. The class culminates in an exciting library-based final project. No prior knowledge of Greek or Latin is required. This course assists you in preparing for the SAT.

KINESIOLOGY FOR THE ATHLETICALLY MINDED GIFTED STUDENT
This class is intended for the gifted student who also wishes to excel in athletics. The study of movement, efficiency, and philosophy of competition will be the focus. Students will learn through analysis of their own movement how to be faster, jump higher, and move more efficiently in the athletic arena. We will study the physics of movement, learn the most up-to-date training techniques, and how to best maximize the potential of the individual athlete. A must-take class for the well rounded gifted student. Guest speakers may include baseball, basketball, tennis, football and track coaches from the Irvine and Orange County area.

Note: A $30 Materials Fee is required for this class.

PHYSICS
From cars traveling on the freeway to planets flying through space, motion is a central feature of the world around us. In this class, you will study motion using a single, simple picture: the laws of physics. You will learn how to carefully describe the wide range of motions you encounter everyday in activities as diverse as sports, travel and observations of the natural world. The course will explain why the motion of the planets is no different than that of a thrown baseball. Students learn the techniques of laboratory investigation, qualitative reasoning and quantitative analysis in physics. Emphasis is also given to how physics relates to everyday life and to the historical, cultural and philosophical basis on which physics is constructed. No advanced math skills are required.

PSYCHOLOGY
This course is an introduction to the scientific study of the behavior of human and other animals. Topics include the history of psychology, basis of behavior, personality theory, memory, perception, psychological measurement and testing, and cognitive psychology.

THINKING AND WRITING
Develop reading, critical thinking and creative strategies necessary for academic success. Emphasis is on writing as a tool for learning that fosters critical thinking. Writing and thinking exercises will help sharpen your skills in observations, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis and evaluation.
ARGUMENTATION AND DEBATE
Cover all aspects and styles of debates and argumentation in this intense course. Plenty of time is given to each student for competitive platform speaking. You will be able to critically analyze the strength of an argument by learning to identify common fallacies of logic found in newspapers, magazines, and television advertising. A must for all college bound students.

ENTREPRENEURIAL MIND: CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION
This course introduces students to entrepreneurial thought and the process for innovation and idea generation. Students will better understand this process through mastery of the creative problem-solving model (CPSI). Students will begin to develop their own entrepreneurial experience and associated essential business skills. Students will be introduced to business basics and challenged to think creatively about forming businesses. Through experiential learning and creative thinking exercises, students will develop a disciplined thought process for designing a business plan.

FORENSIC SCIENCE
This class is designed to illustrate concepts and techniques from the physical and biological sciences and the role they play in solving criminal acts. Activities are presented to enable students to develop observational skills to locate, collect and preserve evidence related to a simulated crime. Inductive and deductive reasoning will be used in working through a case study of a simulated crime scene investigation.

MAKE THEM LAUGH – IMPROV AND COMEDY SKETCH WRITING
Select this class and gain some practical experience in working with humor. Students will learn to offer and receive trust and support from fellow students, through a series of non-threatening improvisational games and exercises. Innovation and spontaneity will be practiced. Students will learn to better work together while having fun and will acquire humorous strategies to get the point across. This will be an interactive class. This class is designed to provide basic instruction on becoming a comedy writer.

MARINE BIOLOGY
Focus on the earth’s hydrosphere with emphasis on ocean and estuary systems. You will examine both the physical and biological aspects of aquatic systems. Topics include ocean geography, waves, tides, El Nino, food webs and ocean life featuring marine mammals.

Waste management, pharmaceuticals, and food activities. Students interested in environmental law or environmental science, biology, chemistry, biochemistry and the health sciences are encouraged to take this course. This course provides an excellent foundation for biology, chemistry and environmental science in high school.

Note: The UCI campus has safety regulations for the protection of students conducting experiments in laboratories. Students are required to wear long pants at all times. UCI Laboratories are air conditioned and well ventilated. Note: A $75 Lab Fee is required for this class.

WRITING AND THE CREATIVE SELF
This course will explore the art of writing as a path to deeper self-understanding. Through journaling and the study of memoir, creative non-fiction, autobiography, and personal archetypes, students will expand their use of writing to include self-reflection, creative expression, communication, and negotiation. With words as their tools, these scholars will dig through material in order to excavate a unique voice and vision. Students will learn to view their memories and personal histories as their own best resources, and gain a comprehensive understanding of the power and magic of words.

Note: A $30 Materials Fee is required for this class.

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GAME ANALYSIS AND DISSECTION (THESE SESSIONS ONLY: SESSION B, JULY 11 - 15; SESSION C, JULY 18 - 22; AND SESSION D, JULY 25 - 29)

Games today are sophisticated and varied in style and execution. What defines a successful game? Learn to identify the formulas and conventions used in the various genres of modern games by analytically playing and deconstructing a variety of games on various game consoles. Analyze new and old games for such elements as gameplay mechanics, incorporation of themes, pacing, and player immersion. You will examine a variety of games and create a game prototype on paper that can be played in class for an original game concept demonstrating understanding and incorporation of these lessons.

Note: A $30 Materials Fee is required for this class.

GENETICS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY (SESSION A ONLY, JUNE 27 - JULY 1)

After developing an introductory background and foundation in genetics, we will explore the current promises and challenges of biotechnology. This compelling field – a veritable scientific revolution – combines disciplines such as genetics, molecular biology, biochemistry and cell biology and encompasses a wide range of techniques used to modify biological organisms according to the needs of humanity. Students will become acquainted with various methods used in the biotech field as well as famous case studies where diseases have been successfully treated and mysteries solved.

The course includes: historic and modern day genetic problems, blood typing studies, DNA extraction, eukaryotic cell isolation and microscopy, the current status of stem cell research and its applications, and a biotech ethics debate.

INVENTORS’ WORKSHOP (OFFERED MORNINGS AND AFTERNOONS, SESSION C ONLY, JULY 18 - 22)

Learn the invention stories behind many products you use daily. Find out several of the patents issued to young people, one as young as four. Students will conceive and develop their very own invention. Every aspect of idea development will be explored including how to come up with the next great idea, create a business plan, market test your idea, and receive patent protection both domestically and internationally. Legal aspects of the process will be emphasized. Students will receive a mock start-up fund and learn to budget the idea development process. Students will organize the course content into an inventor’s notebook, which will serve as a guide to future business and idea development.

Note: A $30 Lab Fee is required for this class.

LAW, ETHICS / MOCK TRIAL PART I AND II (ALL DAY, SESSION B ONLY, JULY 11 - 15)

In this one-week course, students develop their own prosecutorial and defense strategies for a given criminal fact pattern. While doing so, you will get an overview of the judicial system in America, including the difference between civil and criminal law why “not guilty” does not equal “innocent”, and how “ethics” differs by law for the Prosecution and Defense. The class will culminate in a one-day mock trial. To enroll you must attend the morning and afternoon sessions, selecting this class as a “Morning” and “Afternoon” class. This course is offered in Session B only.

Note: A $30 Materials Fee is required for this class.
I would like to thank the Gifted Student Academy! I'm feeling so proud and excited to see my daughter so enthusiastic about school and her school work!“ —GSA Parent

“I liked all the experiments in Chemistry and I also enjoyed Critical Reading. The residential experience taught me to be more sociable and to make friends easily.” —GSA Student