



2012 Urban Scholars' Academy

– Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) –

Who is eligible to participate?

Students are eligible for the 2012 Urban Scholars' Academy if they meet the following criteria:

- Have applied to a 4-year degree program at UDC for admission to the Fall 2012 semester
 - All new Freshmen and Transfer students are eligible
 - Readmitted students may be eligible on a case by case basis
- Will be enrolled as a full-time student for the Fall 2012 semester (at least 12 credits)
- Have submitted a 2012 Urban Scholars' Academy application online at: www.udc.edu/aac/fye.htm

What is the cost of participating in this program?

Students who wish to enroll in courses for credit will be personally responsible for tuition and fees. If you have submitted your 2011-2012 FAFSA, you may be eligible for grant and loan money to help pay this cost. Students who are unable to pay for tuition will complete non-credit courses. There is **no cost** to the student for participation in non-credit courses, program services, Friday excursions, or other program activities. Most program participants will elect to take non-credit courses for this reason. In addition, Urban Scholars' Academy offers students a stipend to help cover minor, incidental costs of participating such as transit, school supplies, and occasional meals.

The application asks about FAFSA and DC One App completion. Am I still eligible if I do not complete these forms?

Yes. We only ask if you have completed these outside financial aid applications to make sure you are aware of them and prepared for the Fall 2012 semester. You are still eligible for Urban Scholars' even if you do not qualify for FAFSA or DC One App aid.

What is the difference between credit and non-credit courses?

The courses will be similar in content, instructional approach, and time commitment. Credit courses will be degree-applicable and will be graded. Credit-bearing courses also have tuition and fees that students must pay or arrange payment for. Non-credit courses will be of the same academic rigor, thereby preparing you for college success, but will not be a formal part of your undergraduate transcript.

Do I have to participate in all courses? Can I opt out of some program activities?

No. Due to the interrelated curriculum and community building activities built into our program schedule, students must participate in both the Critical Reading & Writing and Mathematics course, as well as participate in activities like New Student Seminar, SCOPE Seminar, study hall, and Friday excursions. These components are designed for your success and are thereby not optional.

What is the stipend amount?

The stipend for Urban Scholars is dependent on full participation. Students can earn up to \$1,000 for committing to the program in full. Students with inconsistent attendance will receive a lesser amount commensurate with their participation.

What other resources will I have access to while participating in the program?

All program participants will have free peer mentoring from a current UDC undergraduate, free tutoring in writing and math, free academic advising with full-time UDC Academic Advisors, free support from UDC's Counseling & Student Development Center staff, free daily meals through DC's Free Summer Meals Program, and free career planning through our Lunch Speaker Series (pewh!)

Can I maintain a job while participating in Urban Scholars' Academy?

We strongly recommend that students treat the program as a full-time job, and thus discourage simultaneous employment. For this reason, we offer a program stipend to help students afford to participate in the program without maintaining a job. For our Adult Learners who work full-time and/or have care-taking responsibilities, we recommend you participate in the flexible evening program schedule instead of the traditional 9 AM – 5 PM schedule.

Are meals included in the program?

Urban Scholars' Academy is proud to partner with the DC Free Summer Meals Program to provide breakfast and lunch service to our program participants. Students who do not wish to participate in this free meal service may bring or purchase their own food or snacks from the campus cafeteria (Firebird Inn), from local restaurants, or from the campus bookstore. On field trips, we generally provide breakfast and snacks, and students may have to pay for their own lunch. For this reason, we offer a program stipend, and make sure students know about affordable dining options near our excursion sites.

Do I have to attend Friday excursions?

Friday programming is designed to be fun and educational, helping students connect what they are learning in the classroom to real-world settings. In past years, these included a poetry unit at the Nuyorican Poets Café in New York city, a unit on historical constructions of race at the Smithsonian Natural History and American History Museums, and a unit on constitutional rights in school settings at the Newseum. Because it is highly interactive, Friday programming is also critical to forming community amongst our participants, and is therefore a critical and mandatory part of the program.

Is housing available?

Urban Scholars' is a non-residential program, with most of its activities scheduled between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 PM. Students interested in housing, must make their own arrangements through the Office of Residence Life (<http://www.udc.edu/housing/>). Students seeking summer housing are responsible for costs of on-campus housing, and may use their program stipend towards this expense.

Why do I need to provide parent information on the application?

For our grant reporting purposes, we need to collect certain information about the students we serve, including status as first-generation college students, and parent educational attainment. For student privacy, only summary statistics are reported, and no identifying information. Parent educational attainment has no bearing on determining a students' acceptance into the program.

Do I need to be accepted to UDC before I can apply?

No. Prospective participants may submit their application to Urban Scholars' Academy before they apply to UDC, or before they know their application status. However, only those who apply to UDC and who are accepted to a four-year degree program will be eligible for Urban Scholars. To apply to UDC, visit: <http://www.udc.edu/apply/>

What is the deadline to apply to Urban Scholars' Academy?

The priority deadline is June 15th, as space in the program is limited. Candidates may be able to apply after that date, if space is still available. Apply today to guarantee your spot!

When will I know if I have been admitted to the program?

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, and we will confirm your acceptance to UDC through the Admissions Office. Once your acceptance has been confirmed, we will alert you to your acceptance into Urban Scholars' Academy. Your patience during the review and confirmation process is appreciated.

What if I forgot to include information on my application when I submitted it, or if my information has changed?

E-mail aac@udc.edu or call (202) 274-6899 if something on your application is missing, or has changed.