



**SUMMER
SPRINGBOARD**
Look Inward. Go Upward.

FOUNDATIONS OF HUMAN GENETICS INFOSHEET

**New student admissions for
Summer 2026 are open.**



2-Week Course

This is a two-week program where you'll focus on one course for the entire duration.

Program Highlights

- Get hands-on lab experience using real genetic tools and techniques
- Explore DNA barcoding, genetic engineering and data analysis
- Apply bioinformatics to study gene sequences and inheritance patterns
- Investigate real-world genetic disorders and their impact on society
- Discuss ethical questions around gene editing and genetic privacy
- Gain insight into careers in genetics, biotechnology and healthcare

2026 Dates

[University of Michigan](https://www.umich.edu)

- Session 1: July 19 - July 31



Academic Program Overview

Dive into the building blocks of life in this hands-on exploration of human genetics. Students investigate how DNA determines traits, the biology behind genetic disorders and how genetics connects to medicine and society. Through interactive labs, simulations and real-world case studies, students analyze genetic data, explore inheritance patterns and consider the ethical questions raised by genetic research.

By conducting experiments and presenting their findings, students gain practical lab experience and build a strong foundation in genetics that prepares them for future study and careers in biology, healthcare and biomedical research.



Excursions

Students will visit the instructor's lab and research facilities to see genetics in action. Past excursions have included university research labs and genetic testing facilities, offering a behind-the-scenes look at how scientists use molecular techniques to study DNA, genetic disorders and population genetics.

Instructors

Christa Ventresca, PhD, is a geneticist and educator with a passion for making genetics engaging and accessible for students. She holds a PhD in Genetics and Genomics and a Master's in Bioinformatics from the University of Michigan, and a BA in Biology from Vassar College. Christa has taught at the University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University and co-directed Michigan DNA Day for five years. Her research focuses on complex traits such as type 2 diabetes and the ethics of communicating genetic research to the public.

Tuition Information:

Residential Students:

- **Includes:** all meals, lodging, excursions, academic course, weekend excursions
- **Excludes:** optional airport pickup and drop off service (available for an additional fee)
- **Price:** \$5,698

Commuter Students:

- **Includes:** lunch, academic course, excursions, programming from 9am to 5pm, Monday-Friday
- **Excludes:** lodging, breakfast, dinner and weekend excursions
 - Weekend excursions can be added on for \$125 per day
- **Price:** \$2,998

Supplements:

- **Application fee:** Starting at \$99 (mandatory, non-refundable)
- **Tuition Protection Plan:** Allows for cancellation for any reason up until the day of the program. Click [here](#) for more info

Summer Springboard programs are not run by our campus partners (with the exception of Cal Poly, University of Washington Foster School of Business, and NYSID which are run in partnership with SSB). Universities and their affiliated departments and partners do not control and are not responsible or liable in any manner for any part of the Summer Springboard program.



Course Structure

There are nine 3-hour class sessions over the two-week course. During week one, students have class from 9am-12pm, Monday through Friday. During week two students have class from 9am-12pm, Monday through Thursday. Wednesday afternoons are dedicated to additional academic time (excursions, speakers).



Typical Schedule

8AM	Breakfast	
9AM	Academic Course / Commuter Student Arrival	
12PM	Lunch	
1:30PM	Academic Excursions or Recreational Activity	
3:30PM	College Readiness Workshop or True You	
5PM- 6:30PM	Commuter Student Departure	
6PM	Dinner	
7PM	Clubs	
10:30PM	Night Checks	

[More info on Airport Transfer](#)

[More info on Unaccompanied Minor Service](#)

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