



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

MIDDLE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY + NEUROSCIENCE INFOSHEET

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

Middle School Course

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



Academic Program Overview

Immerse your budding psychologist in this captivating week-long experience designed for middle school students eager to explore the fascinating world of the human brain. This program is tailor-made for students with an interest in psychology, offering an in-depth journey into the ways psychologists unravel the mysteries of human behavior. Delve into the realms of social dynamics, emotions, personality, belief systems, and the intricate connections between the mind, brain, and body. Discover the secrets of the human psyche in this engaging and informative program.



Excursions

Students will have the opportunity to engage with highly accomplished specialists in this field. Practicing professionals will share their wealth of knowledge and encourage innovative thinking in this area of learning. Hands-on learning is experienced through curated academic excursions and project-based activities. Outside of their course-specific studies, students will explore everything the Bay Area, San Diego, and Nashville have to offer! With so much rich history, breathtaking sights, parks and famed landmarks at our fingertips there is something for everyone to discover!

Program Highlights

- Learn how the mind works and examine the intricate connections between humans and their brains.
- Explore complex questions of human behavior through hands-on activities.
- Evaluate treatment strategies for a variety of mental health issues.
- Explore the fields of psychology and neuroscience with professionals in the industry.

2026 Dates

Berkeley

- Session 1: July 5 - July 10
- Session 2: July 12 - July 17
- Session 3: July 19 - July 24
- Session 4: July 26 - July 31

UC San Diego

- Session 1: June 28 - July 3
- Session 2: July 5 - July 10
- Session 3: July 12 - July 17

Vanderbilt University (\$2,898)

- Session 1: June 28 - July 3

Instructors

Berkeley - Janet Muro

Janet holds her Master of Arts in Education from the University of the Pacific and her BA in Psychology from San Francisco State University. She also studied developmental psychology and research methods in psychology at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. She currently teaches high school English, English Language Development, and Psychology for Aspire Public Schools. She also led the curriculum design for the first A-G (UC-accepted) high school psychology course for Aspire Richmond California College Preparatory Academy. Janet is passionate about igniting the love of learning psychology to middle and high school students who may have limited access to the specialty in schools.

UCSD - Dr. Sara Roldan

Dr. Roldan is a Doctor in Clinical Psychology, an educator, TEDx speaker, writer, and researcher known for making psychology engaging, relatable, and impactful for students and families. Recognized in the San Diego community and beyond, she has been featured at Comic-Con, San Diego Weekly, and other publications, where she explores the psychology of pop culture and how it shapes the way students think, feel, and connect.

Vanderbilt - Dr. Kevan Kidder

While Dr. Kidder's PhD is in Psychology, his passion for psychology (often called behavioral neuroscience) digs into neurobiological correlates of memory, perception, and behavior. For his graduate work Dr. Kidder studied neural oscillations in learning and memory systems and combined neural recordings with lasers in the brain (optogenetics) to probe discrete functions of the medial prefrontal cortex. His recent work was at University of Washington's Department of Biological Structure where he studied aging and neurodegenerative disorders, such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease. He earned his undergraduate degrees in Biology and Psychology and his PhD in Psychology (neurosystems and behavior) from UW.

Tuition Information:

Residential Students:

- **Includes:** all meals, lodging, excursions, Academic Course, and evening activities
- **Excludes:** optional airport pickup and drop off service (available for an additional fee)
- **Prices:**
 - Berkeley and UCSD: \$2,998
 - Vanderbilt: \$2,898

Commuter Students:

- **Includes:** lunch, academic course, excursions, programming from 9am to 6pm on Monday-Thursday and 9am to 2:30pm on Friday
- **Excludes:** lodging, breakfast, dinner, and evening activities
- **Price:**
 - Berkeley: \$1,598
 - UCSD and Vanderbilt: \$1,498

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 five 3-hour class sessions over the one-week course. During the week, students have class from 9am-12pm, Monday - Friday (program check-out is 2:30 p.m. on Friday). Wednesday afternoon will be dedicated to additional academic time with possible excursions and/or guest speakers.

The Middle School programs operate separately from Summer Springboard high school programs with separate staff, accommodations, classes, and a more structured environment. For students completing grades 6-8.



Typical Schedule

8AM	Breakfast	
9AM	Academic Course / Commuter Student Arrival	
12PM	Lunch	
1:30PM	Academic Excursions or Recreational Activity	
3:30PM	Academic Skills Lab	
5PM	Free-Time	
5-6PM	Commuter Students Depart	
6PM	Dinner	
7PM	Evening Activity	
8:30PM	Back in the Dorm	
9:30PM	Mentor Check-In	

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.

[More info on Airport Transfer](#)

[More info on Unaccompanied Minor Service](#)

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