

SUMMER SPRINGBOARD
Look Inward. Go Upward.

Psychology + Neuroscience Infosheet

New student admissions for Summer 2027 are open

2-Week Course

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

Program Highlights

- Uncover the mystery of how the mind works, and examine the connection between the brain and human behavior.
- Develop solutions to the complex questions of human behavior through hands-on activities such as a brain dissection and real-world experiments.
- Understand treatment strategies for a variety of mental health issues that affect millions of individuals.
- Interact with clinical psychologists, neurologists and researchers who are experts in this specialized field.
- Learn how to construct a novel psychological theory and design experiments to test it (Research Methods).
- Discover what psychology is like as a profession, as an academic or clinician.

Academic Program Overview

Nothing is more fascinating and mysterious to us than each other. How do people work? How do I work? Students will learn to tackle these fundamental questions with the tools of psychological science. Students will learn about classic experiments in psychology, with the goal of getting a hands-on, experiential understanding of how people work and how psychologists study them. They will explore social dynamics; emotions; personality; mental illness; the nature of beliefs; neuroscience; and the relationship between the mind, brain, and body. As a capstone project, they will construct their own miniature psychology theory, design/run an experiment to test it, and present findings to the class.

Excursions

This past summer, students toured both Harvard University and the USC Dana & David Dornsife Cognitive Neuroscience Imaging Center to see an fMRI machine and how it functions. Students in San Diego were able to visit The Brain Observatory and see a real human brain. In Boston, students have visited a biofeedback clinic where clinicians used insights from psychology to further their work. Guest speakers included the Director of Harvard's Moral Psychology Research Laboratory, a Cognitive Psychology professor from UCLA, and a People Analyst from Google. In New York, students received a behind-the-scenes tour of the psychology lab at NYU. They witnessed an MRI scan and participated in a research study. At Duke, students visited the Department of Psychiatry & Bowles Center for Alcohol Studies at University of North Carolina. Students built DIY microscopes, went on a lab tour, and learned how equipment can be used to slice brain tissue while holding different brains. Students in Berkeley participated in a workshop at Creative Minds, a community arts for brain health initiative for the Global Brain Health Institute. At UW, students toured various labs on UW's campus and had the opportunity to visit the Allen Institute, a significant brain research center in Seattle.

Instructors

UCSD – Dr. Seraphina Solders (Sessions 3 & 4)

Dr. Seraphina Solders is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Neurosciences Department at UC San Diego. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Biology with the Honors Minor in Interdisciplinary Studies from San Diego State University (SDSU), and her Ph.D. in Neurosciences from UCSD. Her current research focuses on the role of the blood-brain barrier in aging and its contributions to Alzheimer's disease risk.

UCLA - Dr. Alexia Holovatyk (2026)

Dr. Alexia Holovatyk is a licensed clinical health psychologist, educator, and founder of Live Well Psychology Group. In addition to running a thriving private practice, she serves as an Adjunct Professor at USC, where she teaches Introduction to Psychology, bridging academic research with real-world application.

Duke - Dr. Hope Peterson-Sockwell

Hope Peterson-Sockwell is a postdoctoral research associate at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She earned her B.A. in Psychology, M.S. in Biomedical Sciences, and Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Wake Forest University. Her research focuses on building brain networks from functional MRI data and studying how different populations change brain states during cognitive tasks. She has taught psychology, biological psychology, and neuroscience at multiple universities and is active in scientific outreach, including organizing the Triangle Brain Bee and bringing neuroscience lessons to local classrooms. Hope is passionate about hands-on, engaging learning and creating inclusive STEM spaces, and she looks forward to working with students eager to explore how the brain shapes behavior.

Berkeley- Olive Tambou (Session 1)

Olive is a PhD candidate at the University of California, San Francisco. She is currently working in the Paz Lab at the Gladstone Institutes, where she studies thalamocortical functioning following a brain injury. Her research is focused on gaining a better understanding of how the brain is impacted after a stroke. Olive grew up in San Francisco and received her undergraduate degree in neuroscience from Macalester College. During college, Olive worked in the lab of Dr. Sandra Japuntich, a clinical psychologist at the Hennepin Healthcare Research Institute, investigating factors that impact patients from receiving lung cancer screening. After college, Olive served as a Junior Specialist at the Northern California Institute for Research and Education and has extensive experience mentoring young students in STEM. When not in the lab, she enjoys hiking, camping, trying new restaurants, and binge watching reality TV shows.

Berkeley- Nilla Sivakumar (Session 3)

Nilla is a PhD candidate at the University of California, San Francisco. She grew up in the Bay Area and received her undergraduate degree in neuroscience from UCLA. Nilla currently works in the Dubal Lab, where her research focuses on the positive contribution of the X chromosome to the aging brain. She is an alumna of the Correa Lab at UCLA, where she studied neural control of body temperature, and of the Knight Lab at UCSF, where she studied neural control of appetite.

Berkeley- Dr. Tanisha Hill-Jarrett (Session 5)

Dr. Tanisha Hill-Jarrett is a licensed clinical neuropsychologist and Assistant Professor of Neurology at the University of California San Francisco's Fein Memory and Aging Center. Dr. Hill-Jarrett holds a master's degree and PhD in clinical psychology from the University of Florida. She earned a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in neuroscience from the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Hill-Jarrett's program of research focuses on measuring and examining the impact of cross-cutting structural racism and sexism on cognitive aging and risk for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias among older Black women.

Barnard/Columbia University - Meghan Bjalme-Evans

Meghan Bjalme-Evans is a neuroscience educator, researcher, and doctoral scholar at Teachers College, Columbia University, where she studies how the brain controls movement, learning, and behavior. At Columbia, Meghan has taught Neuroscience Applications to Education and supported courses in Foundations of Neuroscience and Neuroanatomy, helping students make sense of how the brain works—from cells to complex systems.

University of Washington - To Be Announced

Courses are taught by accomplished and passionate faculty recruited from many area colleges, universities and professional forums. Each faculty member is selected for their subject area expertise and proven ability to both challenge and captivate students.

Course Structure

There are nine 3-hour class sessions over the two-week course. During week one, students have class from 9am-12pm Monday - Friday. During week two, students have class from 9am-12pm Monday through Thursday. Afternoons in both weeks are dedicated to students' preferred College Readiness Workshops (CRW), True You, and Academics in Action, with Academics in Action including academic excursions, guest speakers, and course-related activities, such as an instructor-led project or student-led, independent study.

Tuition Information:

Apply by November 30 to lock in the lowest tuition of the year. Tuition increases on December 1

Residential Students:

- **Includes:** all meals, lodging, excursions, academic course, weekend excursions
- **Excludes**: optional airport pickup and drop off service (available for an additional fee)
- **Tuition**: See tuition under 2027 dates

Commuter Students:

- **Includes:** lunch, academic course, excursions, programming from 9am to 5:15pm, Monday-Friday
- **Excludes:** lodging, breakfast, dinner, weekend excursions
  - Weekend excursions can be added on for $125 per day
- **Tuition**:
  - **$3,298*:** Barnard College, Columbia University, Berkeley, UCLA, + UC San Diego
  - **$2,998***: Duke + University of Washington

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

Apply Now!

2027 Dates

Barnard College, Columbia University ($5,998)*
- Session 1: July 5 - July 17*
- Session 2: July 18 - July 30

Berkeley ($6,298)*
- Session 1: June 13 - June 25
- Session 3: June 27 - July 09
- Session 5: July 11 - July 23

Duke ($5,798)*
- Session 1: June 27 - July 9
- Session 2: July 11 - July 23

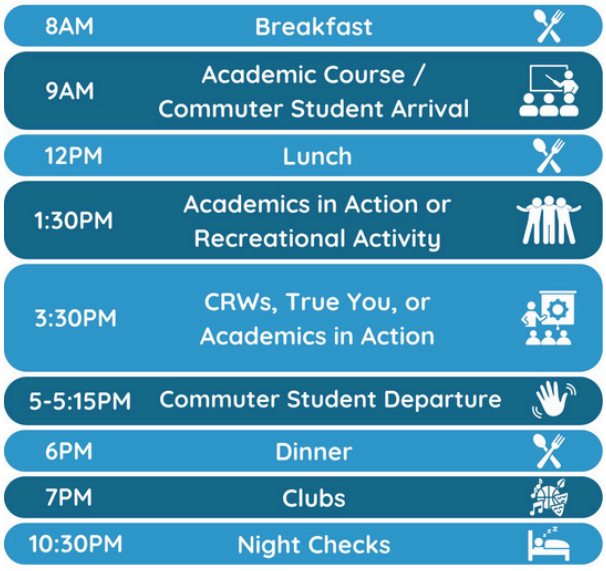
UCLA ($6,298)*
- Session 1: June 20 - July 2
- Session 2: July 5 - July 17*
- Session 3: July 18 - July 30

UC San Diego ($5,998)*
- Session 2: June 27 - July 9
- Session 3: July 11 - July 23
- Session 4: July 25 - August 6

University of Washington ($5,798)*
- Session 1: July 25 - August 6

*Sessions starting July 5th will start on Monday, not Sunday. During the first week (due to the holiday), classes meet Tuesday through Friday, followed by Monday through Friday in week two.

Typical Schedule



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.

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