Summer on the brain

Summer programs at the Belin-Blank Center

www.education.uiowa.edu/belinblank
Dear Belin-Blank Center Students and Families,

Welcome! We are very pleased that you will be joining us here at The University of Iowa for one of our many pre-college summer programs. This Student Handbook is designed to answer your questions and to help you and your parents know more about what to expect when you arrive on campus.

The Belin-Blank Center has an excellent reputation of providing high quality academic courses along with rewarding out-of-class programming. Each member of our Resident Advisor (RA) Staff completes a week-long training that focuses on providing a safe, comfortable, and enriching environment. We assume responsibility for students 24 hours a day and keep our student-to-RA ratio at approximately 10:1.

Please visit our “Summer on the Brain” link on our webpage at www.education.uiowa.edu/belinblank. The Summer on the Brain site contains program information and updates, along with a handy page called “@BBC” where you can see weekly newsletters, find out when ceremonies are, and use an email option to stay in touch with your student while he/she is at Iowa.

As always, feel free to call with any questions or concerns you or your family may have. Our phones are answered 9:00 AM until 4:30 PM, Monday-Friday. We do have voice mail if you wish to leave a message after hours. Calls are answered the following business day. If you need to reach your child due to an emergency, please call our office during our office hours; after-hours, call the 24-hour desk at Burge Residence Hall. The numbers are listed below.

We believe that you will have an exceptional academic and social experience as part of the Belin-Blank Center Summer Programs and look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

Jan Warren
Student Program Administrator

Belin-Blank Center
9:00 AM–4:30 PM Monday–Friday
(800) 336-6463

Burge Hall 24-Hour Desk
Emergency Only
(319) 335-3091
Welcome to Daum Hall! This will be your home during your stay on the U of I campus. Daum Hall has a lounge on the main floor, laundry facilities, and vending machines. A meal plan will be included in your program registration fee, so students have no need to bring food to summer programs. To make this experience rewarding and fun for everyone, we have some basic rules, guidelines and other information to ensure the comfort and safety of you and your fellow residents.

SUMMER ON THE BRAIN WEBSITE

Our online Summer on the Brain is designed for students and families. The link for the @BBC page will be especially helpful. From this page, parents can email their student and messages will be delivered by program coordinators to students during the week. This website also contains descriptions of and contact information for program coordinators, maps to Daum Residence Hall, a listing of opening and closing ceremony times, listings and maps of downtown Iowa City hotels, restaurants and entertainment, as well as other helpful information. Please visit our webpage at www.education.uiowa.edu/belinblank and click on Summer on the Brain link to get to the website.

THE RESIDENCE HALL STAFF

The Resident Advisors (RAs) for your program will be living on the floors with you and are responsible for daily programming and assisting you throughout your program. There will be several different programs taking place at the same time, each with its own RA staff. Resident Advisors have received training for their work with pre-college students and are under the supervision of the Belin-Blank Center administrative staff.

OPENING CEREMONIES

After you check into the residence hall, a brief opening ceremony for parents and students will be held for your program. You will be notified of the exact time and location. Times and locations for opening ceremonies are also listed under the @BBC link on the Summer on the Brain website. This meeting will provide an opportunity for you and your family to meet the faculty and staff, and to ask any questions you may have about the summer program.

Students should be completely checked in before the opening ceremony. Following the opening ceremony, there will be a brief meeting for any last minute questions and to give family members a chance to say good-bye.
Check–out Procedure

You may check out of the residence hall any time before or after the Closing Ceremony on the final day of your program. Once you have all of your belongings out of the room, lock the door behind you and return your key to the Burge Hall front desk, where Burge desk staff will officially check you out of your room.

LOSS AND DAMAGE

For your safety, and the protection of your belongings, always lock your door at night and whenever you leave your room. Valuables may be given to RAs for safekeeping. If there is a theft, report it immediately to your RA. If you lose something, you can inquire at the Currier Hall front desk. For items lost outside the residence halls, the campus Lost & Found office is in the IMU Parking Office. Carry your key and a form of identification with you at all times.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Belin-Blank Center program participants may not have vehicles on campus, including automobiles, motorcycles, bicycles, etc. Students may not have guests of the other gender in their rooms at any time. (Family members helping with moving in or out are welcomed.) You may not cook in your room, but you may bring snacks to your room from the vending areas. "Lights Out" will be between 11:00PM and 11:30PM, depending on the program, and will be preceded by a bed check.
**DISCIPLINE**

The following behaviors are considered detrimental and may result in expulsion from the program:

- willful damage or vandalism to property belonging to the University or another individual
- possession of fireworks or weapons of any kind
- misuse of fire equipment, including pulling of false fire alarms or misuse of a fire extinguisher
- possession or use of alcohol, tobacco or any controlled substances
- unexcused absence from program classes or irresponsible behavior in class
- willful or consistent misbehavior
- absence from the program without permission
- operation of, or riding as a passenger in, any vehicle not authorized for summer program purposes
- failure to comply with program rules or with requests made by any program staff member. **Students are expected to respect the safety and dignity of others at all times.**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

If you experience any emergency (such as injury, illness, etc.), you are to contact residence staff immediately.

**EMERGENCIES**

**Fire & Tornado Drill**

Residence staff will lead students through tornado and fire drills during residence hall orientation. All students must respond to fire alarms and tornado warnings as directed by staff members. Health and other emergency procedure details will be given to students when they arrive on campus.
RESIDENCE LIFE

ROOMMATES
Each room houses two or three students participating in the same program. Males and females are assigned to separate floors. Living in a close group, you will likely develop friendships and learn a great deal about people after knowing them for only a short time. However, this constant togetherness can also cause occasional tensions. It is important for you to respect other people and their rights. Privacy is important to people, so remember, if you play music or want to talk to a friend, keep the volume low. Keep your room neat and orderly and keep in mind that you are sharing your living space with others.

ACTIVITY GROUPS
Students will be assigned to activity groups. When participating in recreational activities and traveling on field trips, etc., you will often be asked to meet as an activity group. Students are expected to be with their own activity group during these times.

LAUNDRY
Laundry facilities are available in the basement of the residence hall and there will be time during the week to do your laundry. Washers are coin operated ($1.50 per wash) and dryers are free. Don't worry if you are not yet a laundry expert; the RAs will be available to assist you with your laundry, if necessary.

MAIL
There will be daily mail delivery Monday–Saturday. Parents and friends should address mail to students.

    Student Name
    c/o {your program name}
    100 Burge Hall, Room (please check on arrival)
    The University of Iowa
    Iowa City, IA 52242

We strongly recommend that you mail a letter to your student a day or two before the program begins, so that he or she will have a welcome from home.
SELECTED CENTERS OF WORSHIP IN IOWA CITY

The following is a partial listing of worship locations within easy walking distance of Daum Hall. If you do not see your sect or denomination listed, please let us know and we will try to accommodate individual preferences. If you leave the residence hall for a worship service, you must sign out with the staff member on duty before you leave. You must also check back in with the staff member on duty when you return.

**Agudas Achim Congregation**
Friday 7:45 PM; Saturday 9:30 AM

**Newman Catholic Student Center**
Sunday Mass 9:00, 11:00 AM, 4:00, 6:00 PM

**First Baptist Church**
Sunday 10:30 AM

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**
Sunday Service 10:30 AM

**First United Methodist Church**
Sunday 8:00, 9:15, & 10:30 AM

**Trinity Episcopal Church**
Sunday 7:45, 8:45 & 11:00 AM

**Islamic Society of Iowa City**
Times can be arranged

**Unitarian Universalist Society**
Sunday Service 9:30 AM

**St. Mary's Catholic Church**
Sunday 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 AM

GETTING TO CAMPUS

**DIRECTIONS TO THE BLANK HONORS CENTER, BURGE & DAUM HALLS**

From the North of Iowa City (I-80): Take the Dubuque St. exit (244) south from I-80. Turn right (west) on Church St. Church St. will curve left onto Clinton St. Follow Clinton St. two blocks to Burge Hall (on your right). The Blank Honors Center is directly adjacent to Daum.

From the South of Iowa City (Hwys. 1, 6, & 218): Take Riverside Dr. north to Burlington St. Turn right (east) on Burlington and proceed to the third traffic light (Clinton St.). Turn left (north) on Clinton St. and continue through five stoplights to Burge Hall (on your left). The Blank Honors Center is directly adjacent to Daum.

**PARKING**

Limited parking is available on the street outside of Burge & Daum Halls. Because a number of students will be arriving and departing on the same day, we ask that you only park near Daum while you are moving your belongings in or out. There is a parking ramp located behind the Blank Honors Center (North Ramp). To reach the North parking ramp, go south on Clinton to Market St. Turn right onto Market, go to the end of the street, and turn right (Madison Ave). Follow Madison to the parking ramp entrance. Take the elevator to the top level of the ramp. BHC is located diagonally across from the ramp.
**TELEPHONES**

The Residence Halls on The University of Iowa campus do not have personal telephones in individual rooms. Students will have access to a pay phone and a campus phone in the Daum and Burge Hall lobbies. Telephone numbers for the Program Coordinator will be available at check-in and parents may use these if they are unable to contact their student. If you need to contact us, please call The Connie Belin & Jacqueline N. Blank International Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development office at (319) 335-6148 or (800) 336-6463 during the hours of 9:00 AM-4:30 PM. You may leave a message if contacting our office at other times. The Burge desk is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and their number is (319) 335-3091.

**WHAT TO BRING**

**CLOTHING**

Dress for classes and most activities will be casual. Jeans, slacks, shorts or skirts with short-sleeved shirts, T-shirts or blouses are fine for everyday wear. A light jacket, sweatshirt or sweater will come in handy for evenings and cool days. A program T-shirt will be provided for each student. You may also want to bring clothes hangers.

For outdoor activities, you will want comfortable clothes you don't mind getting dirty and at least one pair of sneakers (washable shoes) and/or hiking boots.

In addition to your regular clothing, you should bring at least one set of dress clothes for religious services, dances, and special events. (Former students tell us that you may want more than one set of dress clothes.) Dress clothes are appropriate for the Closing Ceremonies and some special activities.

**ITEMS WHICH WILL BE PROVIDED:**

Bed linens, towels, washcloths and a blanket and pillow will be furnished and changed weekly. You should plan to bring additional towels in case you go to the pool. It is suggested that you bring colored towels since white towels may get mixed with the University linens, and eventually lost. Also, if you are used to sleeping with an extra pillow or blanket, you'll want to bring one with you.
ADDITIONAL ITEMS YOU SHOULD PACK:

- Personal grooming items (soap, shampoo, toothbrush, etc.)
- Laundry soap and laundry bag
- Sunblock
- Umbrella and/or rain gear
- Envelopes, stamps, address book
- Medicines can be stored in RA rooms. However, staff will not administer any medicine without parental permission.
- Swim wear and beach towel
- Alarm clock
- Clothes hangers

OPTIONAL ITEMS YOU MAY WISH TO BRING
(but are not required):

- Camera & film
- Personal reading materials
- Playing cards or board games
- Small portable radio or tape player (No TV's)
- Sports or recreational equipment
- Calculator
- Study lamp (non-halogen)

WHAT NOT TO BRING

For your protection and in the interest of the residential community, do not bring any of the following items:

- Television
- Video games
- Component stereo system or boombox
- Small expensive items, such as jewelry
- Games that are time consuming or detract from study time
- Pets
- Candles or incense
- Hot pots or cooking equipment of any kind
RESIDENTIAL ACTIVITIES / SPECIAL EVENTS

Throughout your program there will be Residential Activities scheduled for participation by all program students. Following is a list of some possible special events that may be scheduled. Students may check the daily program schedule, posted on the door of each RA, for event times and locations.

**Opening Ceremony**
A special welcome will be given by the program administrator, staff, faculty, and special guests. You will be notified of the time and location for your opening ceremony. Participants and their families are invited to attend.

**VIP Groups (Values, Interests, and Preferences)**
Talented students often have diverse interests and have difficulty narrowing their educational and career goals. This activity will provide you with an objective look at your interests, personality preferences, and values in life planning and decision-making. Activities may include small group discussions as well as interpretation of several career assessment instruments.

**Summer Program Dances**
All participants in Belin-Blank Center programs will be invited to attend dances scheduled at various times throughout the summer.

**Variety Show**
This provides everyone an opportunity to show off their talents.

**A Day at Lake MacBride**
Sun, sand, and water are always summer recreation favorites.

**University Theatre or Shakespeare In The Park**
Summer calendars are not yet available, but you can bet that if there's something to see, we'll try to get tickets.

**Other Activities**
Other possible activities include banquets; field trips to the Amana Colonies, Kent Park, the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library; introductory dance or martial arts lessons; and a variety of cultural and recreational activities available on The University of Iowa campus.

**Closing Ceremonies**
Parents, families, and friends are encouraged to attend the closing ceremony for the program. Time and location will be provided for each program.
Each day of the program will include a variety of academic and co-curricular activities. In addition, there will be free time for you to work on coursework, projects, or enjoy new friendships. Weekdays will be structured with classes in the mornings, and workshops, labs, study sessions, and special events filling the afternoons. Evenings and weekends will be more flexible with adequate study time and a variety of cultural, social, and recreational activities. Listed below are typical weekday and weekend schedules:

**Weekday Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00-7:30 AM</td>
<td>Wake up! --Students are responsible for setting their own wake–up time. Early risers may want to get together to do some early morning exercise or read quietly in the residence hall.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00-8:30 AM</td>
<td>Breakfast --All meals will be served in the newly renovated Burge Dining Hall. You will have a choice of hot entrees, fruit, juices, cold cereal, and an assortment of breads.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30-8:45 AM</td>
<td>Morning Meeting --A daily meeting for announcements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00-12:00 PM</td>
<td>Morning Academic Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00-1:00 PM</td>
<td>It's back to Burge Hall for lunch where you will have the choice of hot entrees, a complete line of vegetarian entrees, soup, sandwiches, and a complete salad bar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00-4:00 PM</td>
<td>Afternoon Academic Session --This early afternoon period usually involves additional academic class work. Sometimes the afternoon session is reserved for class projects, special workshops, lectures, exhibits, field trips, and other activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00-6:30 PM</td>
<td>Dinner is served in Burge Dining Hall. A complete line of vegetarian entrees is served along with a variety of other meal choices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30-9:30 PM</td>
<td>Evening Activity --Most evenings include special events ranging from arts performances and special guest speakers to student activities and games. Some programs have a mandatory study period during this time. The times of these activities will vary. Check the daily schedule located on your RAs door for details.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00-10:30 PM</td>
<td>Curfew --All students must be on their floors by the time designated for their individual program unless directly involved with an activity scheduled by the program staff.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 PM</td>
<td>Bed Check or Lights Out --Students must be in their own rooms ready for bed check if they are junior high students, or in their rooms getting ready for bed if they are high school students. If you want to go to bed earlier, please feel free to do so.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 PM</td>
<td>Lights Out for High School Programs --You may be used to staying up later, but with the busy schedule you will need your sleep. RAs will do bed checks promptly at 11:30 PM for the high school programs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WEEKEND SCHEDULE

SATURDAYS:
Academic sessions will run from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM for some programs. Saturday afternoons and evenings will be spent on field trips, cultural events, and recreational activities for the entire group.

SUNDAYS:
Students generally have free time Sunday mornings until noon. Those who would like can get caught up on correspondence, laundry, or reading. If you like to sleep in, this is your chance! You may sign up to attend religious services listed elsewhere in this handbook*. Sunday lunch is served in Burge Dining Hall between 11:30 AM and 1:00 PM. If you aren't planning to eat out with your parents, be sure to arrive back in time to eat lunch or dinner in the dining hall.

*NOTE: If you plan to attend services with someone other than a program participant or staff member, please carefully read the VISITATION section below.

Sunday afternoons and evenings will include more activities.

VISITATION
Parents are encouraged to visit the campus any Sunday morning during the residential program. Students may leave the campus with their parents and/or guardian(s) during this time and are to return no later than noon. Each student and his/her parent should sign a release form before the student leaves the residence hall. A staff member will be on duty Sunday mornings to facilitate this process. The student should report to the staff member on duty when he or she returns to the residence hall. If the student will be leaving with anyone other than a parent or guardian, the program office must have written permission from a parent or guardian before the student will be allowed to leave. Any other visitation or requests to go off-campus will be considered individually by the program director. If you have further questions, please contact the Belin-Blank Center at 1-800-336-6463.
RESEARCH

Research activities at the Belin-Blank Center are designed to help educators understand the personal, academic, and career needs of talented students. It is through such research endeavors that we are able to assist schools and colleges in better providing for the cognitive and affective needs of talented students.

All research activities are approved by The University of Iowa and conducted under the supervision of Dr. Nicholas Colangelo, Director of the Belin-Blank Center.

Participation is voluntary; students cannot participate in research activities without the signed consent from their parent or guardian. A Research Permission Form is sent to all program participants to be signed and returned to the Belin-Blank Center. The Research Permission Form explains procedures for research. If you have any questions about research and questionnaires, you may call Dr. Nicholas Colangelo at 319-335-6148 or 800-336-6463.

CHECK-IN PROCEDURE

On the opening day of your program, check-in will be held in the lobby of Burge Residence Hall which is across from the Blank Honors Center (BHC). This is where you begin. Refer to the map in this handbook (p. 7-8) for directions to Burge. If you will be arriving by public transportation, please notify the Belin-Blank Center in advance.

When you check-in, take a complete inventory of your room to be sure everything is clean and in good repair.

During your stay it is important that you do not:

- put tape or stickers on the walls or doors
- remove furniture from the room
- remove window screens

Your room will be checked again at check-out time for any damages or missing items. Please be aware that you will be charged for the full amount of any repairs or replacements. When leaving, be sure to double-check your room so that you don’t leave anything behind.
The Vision of the Belin-Blank Center

The Belin-Blank International Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development empowers and serves the gifted community through exemplary leadership in programs, research, and advocacy.

Nurturing Potential | Inspiring Excellence