

## Summer Mini-College: STEAM Ahead College Experience

### Overview:

The STEAM Ahead College Experience is a residential, academic and leadership program for high school students with a focus on college preparation across the “STEAM” disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts/Liberal Arts, and Mathematics). What sets the STEAM experience apart from other initiatives is an additional focus on career preparation in these disciplines.

### Purpose:

The STEAM Ahead College Experience focuses on promoting access to high school students in our region and beyond. The program allows high school students (rising sophomores) to get a head start in their thinking and planning regarding career and college options, and offers them the chance to earn 3 credits of transferable college-level credit at Rowan as well as participation in a carefully-selected combination of career/college/and leadership training and workshops with their peers and college leaders. These opportunities will not only serve to guide students as they strive to gain access to college, but will also provide them with a framework for a successful college career that will focus on developing well-rounded individuals who are prepared to enter the workforce and can seamlessly transition upon entry. The Action Plan provided at the conclusion of the STEAM Ahead College Experience includes recommendations for achieving success not only while in college, but also in career selection and in building the soft skills necessary to successfully gain and maintain employment. This program addresses the continuum of education from high school through workforce entry by navigating students through the college process, and by creating pathways to success that are individual to each participant.

### Description:

Starting in the summer before their sophomore year, students may choose to attend this residential college experience program. Students will live on campus for three weeks in July, and during that time be exposed to 8 Key Components of the program which include:

1. **College-Level Academic Credits.** Students will receive 3 academic credits that transfer to Rowan or another institution. Classes will build upon cultural differences reflective of the region, and incorporate multidisciplinary and interactive teaching styles that are based upon an inclusive pedagogy accounting for various learning styles. Those who attend Rowan upon high school graduation will receive the tuition costs of their STEAM Experience in the form of a scholarship upon matriculation to Rowan University.
2. **Career and College Preparation.** Students will be given career assessments that are followed by individual counseling which will tie their career propensities to various academic pathways that assist in job attainment. Students will also receive test preparation strategies to assist with the standardized tests most often needed for college entrance.
3. **Leadership Development.** Students will gain exposure to leadership workshops and experiences that lead to the attainment of the Rowan Leadership Certificate. Leadership training will focus on issues related to diversity, teamwork, drug prevention awareness and ethical leadership.
4. **STEAM Academic Presentations.** Throughout the program, students will attend interactive presentations by STEAM faculty geared toward exposing students to the career and academic options within Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics.
5. **Special Workshops and Presentations.** Students will attend evening workshops (some of which will also be open to parents), which will address topics such as:
  - a. College applications and financial aid;
  - b. Finding a sense of belonging in college; and
  - c. Money matters/Financial Literacy
6. **Field Trips.** Students will attend field trips that will strengthen their leadership and teamwork abilities, and also expose them to local attractions in our region with a focus on the STEAM disciplines and activities.
7. **Small Group Counseling.** Students will work in small groups on a daily basis with current Rowan graduate students to hear first-hand how these students found their pathway(s) to success, and hear how they plan to transition to the workforce. Connections will be made that focus on accessing available

resources within and outside the college campus, how to network with all members of the University community, and how to use those connections to find support and be successful during and after college.

8. **Evening and Other Activities.** Students will have planned supervised, downtime throughout this 3-week experience. These fun activities will further build rapport among participants, and will expose students to the various activities available on college campuses.

**Student Outcomes:**

3 semester hours of transferable college-level credit offered on an accelerated schedule and at a significantly reduced rate  
 Rowan Leadership Certificate  
 Official career assessment and completion of professional resume  
 Understanding of the basic college preparation and application process as well as the steps they should take in the near future  
 Solid understanding of career and college major options that might be a good fit for them personally  
 Standardized test prep and tips  
 Individualized "Action Plan" with a set of recommendations for students to apply to their remaining high school years as they prepare for college and the workforce  
 Exposure to and understanding of the STEAM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Math)

**Timeline:**

- 3 weeks in July - including 2 weekends/field trips

**Costs/Budget:**

The total cost per student is \$4,500.00. This includes the cost of staffing, instruction, field trips, transportation, housing, meals, laundry services, and other expenses as noted below.