

## ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

The Summer Academy for Policy Leadership and Public Service Online (Summer Academy Online) seeks rising high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors; high school graduates, community college students, and undergraduate students who strive for academic excellence through hard work. The admissions committee seeks a well-balanced cohort that is diverse and inclusive, and whose members will interact well, and meaningfully, with each other and with their teachers. Successful applicants will

- be 15 to 25 years old on June 27, 2021
- submit a completed application by May 1, 2021, including:
  - **Statement of Interest**, discussing in students' own words why they are applying. Applicants should speak to their interests, academic or volunteer work, or community involvement.
  - **Transcripts**, verifying academic enrollment.
  - Grades, extracurricular activities, and community service will be considered.
  - Standardized test scores are not required.



Policy Pathways does not discriminate on the basis of gender, marital status, pregnancy, race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran status, or other legally protected characteristics in any program, activity, admission, or employment.

Fees, faculty, and program schedule are subject to change.

To apply or learn more about Policy Pathways and the Summer Academy for Policy Leadership and Public Service Online, please go to our website at [www.policypathways.org](http://www.policypathways.org).

## CONTACT US

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## POLICY PATHWAYS, INC.

The Summer Academy for Policy  
Leadership and Public Service Online



*for*

gifted, talented, and high-potential high school and college students who want to become leaders in public policy and policy-related fields. Because policy shapes our future.

Richmond, Virginia  
**SUMMER 2021**  
June 27 – July 10

## ABOUT POLICY PATHWAYS

Policy Pathways, Inc., is a non-partisan, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that offers educational programs to prepare young people for academic and career pipelines in public policy, public administration, and policy-related disciplines in the academy and fields in the public and private sectors. Policy Pathways also provides professional development support for high-achieving and high-potential high school and college students. Our longer-term goal is to rectify the underrepresentation of students from historically marginalized populations, in gifted education and policy-related degree programs.

Young people are aware of the impact of public policies on their lives and the world. More efficient communication, increased information, and the power to mobilize people and resources through social media give youth the tools and platforms to challenge traditional assumptions and long-held beliefs. Young people seek new approaches to complex policy issues. Policy Pathways aims to help them build leadership skills, analyze ways to influence and cause change, and understand how policies and political decisions affect their daily lives.

## VISION STATEMENT

We envision a society in which high-level policy decision-makers are more diverse and in which previously disenfranchised groups and communities have more power, as well as greater voice, in policy formation and public policy decisions.

## THE SUMMER ACADEMY FOR POLICY LEADERSHIP AND PUBLIC SERVICE

The Summer Academy for Policy Leadership and Public Service Online (Summer Academy Online), a distance learning program for gifted, talented, and high-potential high school and college students, will be held Sunday, June 27 – Saturday, July 10, 2021. The Summer Academy Online aims to bolster diversity and to help its graduates enter top public policy degree programs and academic institutions across the country and around the world. Rising high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors, recent high school graduates, and college students admitted to the Summer Academy Online take part in an engaging and challenging educational program, including hands-on experiences. Their learning, focused on real-world policy issues, offers them opportunities to research, design, and conduct significant policy-related projects.

The Summer Academy Online combines fun with intensive learning. Each rigorous but rewarding two-week session is taught by top professors, policy experts, and leading decision-makers. Participants are introduced to policy formation and analysis, economics, public administration, research methods, and statistics, as well as critical thinking, advocacy, and effective, readable writing. (Course contact hours will exceed those in a standard 16-week semester course.)

The curriculum consists of fourteen interlocking modules organized around five core areas of study: critical thinking, policy formation, policy analysis, advocacy and persuasion, and the capstone project. A participant-centered approach to learning guides course offerings and lesson plans that include lectures, case studies, practical and hands-on activities, group projects, and workshops that enhance research, critical thinking, and writing skills.

The Summer Academy Online is a full-time two-week program. Attendance in all program activities is required. All course content is delivered remotely. Each participant must have access to a computer and the Internet. Participants may not entertain friends or family members during Summer Academy Online sessions and should free themselves of outside obligations and distractions.

## DEADLINE

Applications are due May 1. Late applications will be considered on a space-available basis.

## FEES AND FINANCIAL AID

The application fee is \$70; it is non-refundable and does not apply to tuition.

Tuition for each two-week session for all participants, includes all instructional materials and access to the virtual classroom, is \$1,300. We can offer limited financial assistance based on need. We encourage candidates to seek funding help from sponsoring organizations, family members, and friends.