College Life

...just like you imagined.

FRONTIERS | LAUNCH

WPI
LAUNCH is a non-residential learning and research opportunity for students entering freshman and sophomore years of high school. You’ll spend your days working with faculty focusing on current problems and challenges in the fields of biology, chemistry/biochemistry, computer science, interactive media and game development, or robotics.

You will attend workshops and perform lab work in your chosen field of study. With faculty, current WPI students, and classmates, you will use state-of-the-art experimental, analytical, and computer technology to complete projects and assemble your findings.

Program hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Launch staff and other WPI community members will be available each day at 8 a.m. for early arrival and will provide late-afternoon supervised activities until 5 p.m.; lunch will be included every day. At the start of the program, a one-hour orientation program will welcome participants and parents, and a closing luncheon ceremony will be held on Friday.

We think you’ll find this summer enrichment experience challenging, creative, and lots of fun!

NOTE: Participants focus on one area of study.
Areas of Study

**Biology**

**Homegrown Biotech: Biotechnology in Everyday Life.** Explore the ways in which the field of biotechnology affects our lives. Working in the biotech lab, you’ll have a chance to isolate your own DNA, conduct a molecular medical investigation, create root beer using fermentation, or analyze the foods we eat to see if they have been genetically modified. You’ll carry out your own scientific investigations and share your findings with your family at the end of the week—along with some homemade liquid nitrogen ice cream.

**Chemistry/Biochemistry**

**Chem/Biochem Magic.** Have you ever wanted to work with bubbling flasks of colored concoctions? Ever think about engineering DNA or proteins? In our chemistry and biochemistry lab, you’ll alter liquids at the flick of a wrist, wield light and electricity, and cut and splice genes to create creatures that glow. By week’s end you’ll be dazzling your friends and family with your newfound talents!

**Computer Science**

**Pathways and Cloud Platforms.** In this program you will explore some of the diverse areas of computer science. You will learn some programming basics and apply them to a project, such as creating a personal web page on a cloud platform. You will be able to select a path that best matches your own interests by completing several self-paced tutorial modules under the supervision of the course staff.

**Interactive Media and Game Development**

**Computer Games.** Want to know how computer games are made? You’ll learn how to use a 3D video game engine to create a game with graphics, sound, and animation. You’ll work in teams to undertake hands-on lab exercises to understand important computer science and artistic design concepts related to interactive media. By the end of the week, you will have created a project demonstrating your newfound skills with cool graphics and amazing animation, complete with audio and interactivity.

**Robotics**

**Robot Design and Operation.** Discover the science and technology of this exciting field. You’ll learn about mechanical design, sensors, and programming. You’ll build designs using VEX robots and program them using easyC. Challenging robotics problems will culminate in a competition between student groups at the end of the week.

To Register

WPI’s Launch program is offered to soon-to-be high school freshmen and sophomores only. Register online at [wpi.edu/+launch](http://wpi.edu/+launch) and pay the $495 non-refundable* tuition, by June 15, 2013.

*Each area of study is limited to 20 registered participants with the exception of robotics, which is limited to 30 participants. Should your selected area of study be closed, we will contact you to see whether you’d like to select another area of study. If this is not an option, your payment will not be processed; you can be placed on an optional wait list should a space become available. Upon receipt of your online
To Register  
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registration form and tuition payment, we will confirm your registration in the program. In late June, we will send you a packet including faculty and staff contact information, program policies, schedule, directions, and a what-to-bring list.

Tuition

Cost of the 2013 Launch program is $495. This covers tuition, lunches, snacks, activities, and equipment. (Although participants needn’t worry about personal expenses, the WPI food court and bookstore are accessible to Launch students.) Total tuition is due at the time of registration.

Launch FAQs

WHO ATTENDS LAUNCH?

Students who

• want to explore diverse math, science, and engineering disciplines.
• are interested in real-world problem solving.
• want to spend time on a college campus with college faculty.

HOW MANY STUDENTS ATTEND LAUNCH?

We anticipate approximately 120 participants overall, with a cap of no more than 20 students per area of study (the exception being Robotics, which can accept up to 30 students). Areas of study are filled on a rolling basis.

WHEN WILL I KNOW IF I HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED TO THE PROGRAM?

Registration opens February 8, 2013. No application is necessary, however students MUST complete and submit a registration form (available at wpi.edu/+launch) and the full $495 tuition in order to reserve a spot in the program. The program is first-come, first-served. We cap each program at 20 students (the exception being Robotics, which can take up to 30). We will contact students directly if their first choice is no longer available.

WHAT TYPE OF SUPERVISION IS PROVIDED?

Participants are supervised by Launch staff members, WPI instructors, and teaching assistants. Participants are not permitted to leave campus. Launch is a non-residential program. Parents or designated carpoolers are required to drop off and pick up their child each morning/evening. WPI has a 24-hour police department on campus. The ratio of participant to faculty/TA/staff is approximately 12:1. A criminal background check is completed on all undergraduate student staff as well as faculty and WPI professional staff.

IS LUNCH PROVIDED?

Students will eat lunch in WPI dining facilities. There is a wide variety of food selections daily, including vegan/vegetarian/kosher options, salad bar, hot entrees, etc. The dining staff is happy to accommodate any special needs/restrictions with advance notice.

wpi.edu/+launch