



Summer Academy for Public Policy Analysis and Research

The *Summer Academy* is an initiative of the **Urban Institute** created to address the underrepresentation of minorities and persons from distressed communities in public policy research. Our intensive eight-week curriculum of **policy seminars** and **technical skills training** prepares promising **college juniors** for careers in policy analysis and research. The program takes place on location at the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C - the nation's capitol and the heart of policymaking. *UI Summer Fellows will:*






- Gain knowledge about **US domestic social policy and programs**, particularly those affecting low and moderate income families and communities
- Learn crucial **analytical skills** through classes on data management, statistical analysis and mapping.
- Gain **practical research experience** by writing a short research paper under the guidance of UI experts
- Gain **exposure to a wide range of career opportunities** in policy research and analysis through weekly field trips to premier DC policy institutions
- **Present findings** from their work at the Summer Academy **research conference and closing ceremonies**

Expenses covered plus stipend



Visit our website for 2009 program details: <http://summeracademy.urban.org>

Read about our 2008 class of Summer Fellows!

<p>Lavada Berger, an African-American student from Newark, New Jersey, is majoring in sociology at Harvard University. After pursuing her doctorate, she plans to become a professor and contribute to educational policy development, particularly regarding urban school systems. While at the Summer Academy, Berger examined the relationship between school district leadership and student outcomes.</p>	
<p>Keegan Bordeaux, from Lincoln, Nebraska, is a political science major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. An American Indian from the Sioux Nation, Bordeaux's career goals are to attend law school and work on social justice issues. While in Washington, D.C., he conducted research on Native-American residential location and public service delivery.</p>	
<p>Jessica Compton is studying economics and political science at the University of New Hampshire. Compton, an African-American student from Woodridge, Illinois, plans to get a graduate degree in economics or public policy and to work on racial equality and social justice. This summer her research project focused on racial wealth inequality, financial literacy and asset accumulation.</p>	
<p>Vanessa Cruz is a Latina student from Chicago majoring in political science and economics at DePaul University. She plans to pursue a Ph.D. in political science and address the political and economic barriers faced by many immigrants. While at the Summer Academy, Cruz examined the connection between parental characteristics and the academic performance of second generation immigrants.</p>	
<p>Jonay Foster is an African-American student from Oak Park, Illinois. Foster is majoring in public health at Johns Hopkins University. She plans to attend graduate school and to work on addressing health disparities in minority communities. While at the Summer Academy, Foster conducted research on Medicaid expansions and child health outcomes.</p>	
<p>Parfait Gasana, from Pembroke Pines, Florida, is majoring in sociology and economics at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Parfait, an African-American student, plans to attend graduate school to study economic sociology and eventually become a professor or researcher focusing on urban inequality. His Summer Academy research focused on the factors associated with demand for public transportation in urban areas.</p>	

<p>Thomas Gonzalez is a Latino student from Newton, Massachusetts. An <i>economics</i> major at the <i>University of Chicago</i>, he plans to become a researcher examining policies affecting underprivileged children. This summer he explored <i>state accountability and student achievement under the No Child Left Behind incentive structure</i>.</p>	
<p>Dontá Harris is studying <i>urban and environmental planning</i> at the <i>University of Virginia</i>. Harris, an African-American student from Richmond, Virginia, aspires to work for a research institution and investigate how effective urban planning can reduce poverty and inequality. While at the Summer Academy, he conducted research on the relationship between <i>HOPE VI reform in Washington, DC and change in neighborhood home prices and crime rates</i>.</p>	
<p>Phuong Huynh, an Asian-American student from San Diego, is majoring in <i>ethnic studies and urban planning</i> at the <i>University of California–San Diego</i>. Huynh’s career goal is to be a city planner to help improve the lives of inner-city residents. Her Summer Academy research <i>examined gentrification and affordable housing in City Heights, San Diego</i>.</p>	
<p>Ariana LaBarrie is studying <i>political science</i> at the <i>University of Michigan</i>. An African-American student from Detroit, she plans to become a policy researcher examining racial disparities in the justice system. Her summer research project was a study of <i>racial disparities in juvenile sentencing</i>.</p>	
<p>Blanchi Roblero, a Latina student from the Bronx, New York, is studying <i>sociology and economics</i> at <i>Hunter College–CUNY</i>. She plans to study education policy in graduate school. Her summer research project focused on <i>bilingual and immersion programs, and the educational attainment of newly arrived LEP high school students</i>.</p>	

UI Leadership

<p>Lynette Rawlings founded and directs the Urban Institute Summer Academy for Public Policy Analysis and Research. A research associate in the Institute’s Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center, Dr. Rawlings studies how the structure, demographics, and governance of urban communities shape the quality of life and opportunities available to their residents.</p>	
<p>Ashley Williams is the Program Coordinator for the Urban Institute Summer Academy for Public Policy Analysis and Research. Williams is a research assistant in the Institute’s Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center. She majored in urban studies at Washington University in St. Louis. She wrote her senior thesis on the impact of subprime and predatory mortgage lending on low income and minority homeownership.</p>	

The Urban Institute is a nonprofit, nonpartisan policy research and educational organization that examines the social, economic, and governance challenges facing the nation.

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