

Everything you need to know about SSI when you apply



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About the program

The Summer Science Institute is an eight-week summer program hosted at San Francisco State University designed to strengthen undergraduate students' abilities in the basic sciences. The goal of SSI is to introduce students to topics in chemistry, mathematics, technology, and biology by focusing on knowledge integration and problem solving. Students will hone their skills in laboratory and data analysis workshops, and will integrate the techniques they develop in a creative group project at the end of a program. SSI supplements scientific learning with dedicated development of scholarly practices: study skills, academic planning, and application workshops.

Objectives

The goal of SSI is to inspire promising students from a variety of backgrounds to achieve in the sciences, and to provide them the tools they need to be successful in the next phase of their education. Specifically, SSI seeks to prepare its participants to excel in the core majors-level science courses (Chemistry I, Biology I, Physics I, etc.), and transition them into success in more advanced coursework.

The long-term goal of the program is to attract California undergraduates from disadvantaged backgrounds into the health and science professions, with the aim of reducing disparities in health care provision in California.

How to apply

Sign up for SSI in three easy steps:

1. Apply to SSI on the program website: www.summerscienceinstitute.org
2. Register to attend summer classes at SFSU
3. Wait to receive your welcome packet and registration materials from the SSI team

1. Applying to the program

Application to SSI is free and completed entirely online at the SSI website, <http://www.summerscienceinstitute.org/apply.html>. The deadline for admissions is June 15, 2008; admissions are not intensely selective based on competitive grades, but rather we try to enroll students who show on their applications that they are genuinely invested in their own success in sciences. Admittances will be made on an ongoing basis until the program is full. Interested students are encouraged to apply early to reserve a spot, as it is expected to fill up.

2. Registering for summer classes at SFSU

Once students have been accepted to the Summer Science Institute by applying on the website they must register for classes with the SFSU Registrar. While the online application to SSI is the same for everyone no matter which school you might attend during the year, one of two different SFSU registration options will be more applicable once you are ready to register for the course:

- **Matriculated SFSU Students who plan to take classes full-time in addition to SSI**
Students currently enrolled at San Francisco State University and who plan to take a full-time load of classes in addition to SSI during the summer 2008 session must pay the full-time fee. More information for full-time SFSU students can be found at <http://www.sfsu.edu/~admisrec/reg/ttreg.html>. The last day to register for summer session classes is June 6 or June 20, depending on your course schedule. Check the SFSU Registrar website for details.
- **Part-time students from other schools and SFSU students who do not plan to take other courses in addition to SSI during the summer**
Students who are not currently enrolled in San Francisco State, or those who do not intend to take additional classes during the summer session, can register part-time by enrolling in the SFSU Open University program. Registering in Open University is easy, and allows you to pay only for the units you take. As SSI is a two-unit course, the fee for Open University students will be approximately \$520.00 for the summer 2008 session. If you are interested in this option, register at <http://www.cel.sfsu.edu/openuniversity/>. The last day to register for summer session classes is June 20.

3. Welcome packet and registration materials

You will receive an email welcome from the SSI team as soon as you have been accepted to the program. The packet will include details about the curriculum, program schedule, and where to meet on the first day of class.

Who should take the summer science institute

SSI is applicable to all undergraduate students currently enrolled in California public schools: UC and CSU universities as well as junior colleges. Although most SSI students come from San Francisco State University, it is not required that applicants be regular SFSU students.

The program seeks to enroll dedicated students from socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds, and those seeking to strengthen their proficiency in science before beginning majors-level courses. SSI is appropriate for anyone considering a scientific career; however, it is especially directed to pre-health students. The Summer Science Institute supports the American Medical Student Association and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Achieving Diversity in Dentistry and Medicine.

Fees, expenses, and financial aid

As SSI is a San Francisco State University course worth two semester units, you must to register with the SFSU Registrar in order attend. This standard registration fee charged by the University is the only cost associated with the program. See “How to Apply” above and the SFSU Registrar website at <http://www.sfsu.edu/~admisrec/reg/ttreg.html> for more information on university fees and how to register.

All students admitted to SSI for the 2008 session will receive a financial aid package valuing approximately \$1500.00. This sum is intended to help cover the cost of registration, books, transportation, or other related expenses. The award will be given regardless of any other financial aid you may be receiving, and will be distributed in two or more disbursements beginning during the second week of the course. We hope that cost will not be a factor in your decision to attend SSI. Please contact us to discuss additional financial aid options if you need additional assistance.

Housing and transportation

You will be expected to secure your own housing and daily transportation to San Francisco State University: the Summer Science Institute is not a residential program. On-campus housing offered by SFSU is available for a fee (<http://www.sfsu.edu/~housing/>); however, this option may not be the most economical.

We understand that the San Francisco Bay Area is an expensive place to live and travel. Additional financial assistance is available to students with particular financial needs surrounding housing and transportation. We encourage you to contact the SSI admissions team with questions regarding specific expenses not covered by the standard financial aid package during the program.