

Summer Momentum

A living-learning community-based educational experience
8 Week Summer Session
May 20th –July 12th

Program Features

- Eight-Week Summer Program for Keene State Freshman and Sophomores
- Improve GPA
- Catch up on courses and/or credits for class standing
- Explore major and career interests
- Earn 8 credits at a discounted rate
- Integrated residential experience (recommended)
- Academic and career advising
- Academic support and assistance
- SAVE \$\$\$\$\$\$



Program Purpose and Overview

Summer Momentum is an integrated summer school experience that provides students with the conceptual and tactical skills for decision-making and self-development through a living-learning community. Over an eight-week immersion experience, Summer Momentum provides the path for making lasting, substantive connections here at Keene State by integrating course work, residential study halls, evening and weekend activities, regular meetings with career advising, tutoring and mentoring. The overarching aim of the program is to provide the means for developing self-identity in order to foster responsible decision making for one's future. In addition, the program aims towards helping students raise their grade point average, receive assistance in developing academic goals and career pursuits, as well as raising student awareness as to the structural support available at Keene State College.

Participants

Keene State College students who have just finished their freshman or sophomore year are encouraged to attend this summer session, specifically if they are looking to improve their GPA, find a solid direction for selecting a major area of study, and/or develop one's decision making ability with a particular focus on choosing a career path. Summer Momentum helps connect students to key institutional support and delivers hands-on guidance that can help facilitate a more enriching academic and social experience at Keene State.

Program Structure and Features

Summer Momentum combines two 4-credit courses, a variety of academic support, and a residential living-learning community in order to achieve its mission. Evening events designed around academic and social development are conjoined with numerous one-on-one advising meetings aimed at helping a student select a college major and think through his/her career goals.

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Course Work:

1. **IH-COMM 199: Self-Development and Decision Making:** This 4-credit common course, which will count towards the student's integrative study credits, provides the student with an academic, social and personal understanding of key concepts and issues we find in our social lives. We will be looking at the concepts of duty and obligation, happiness and justice, individual freedom, the nature of the self, as well as power and choice. This is an immersive course in which our time together will be spent doing daily course work as well as evening activities, which include conversational dinners and film analyses on certain evenings. The content of the course focuses on experiences from our everyday lives, and our aim is to critically understand the course material and how the processes of decision making relate to us and to the world at large.
 - a. Assignments for this course will help the student relate the material to his or her life in very specific ways.
 - i. **Cohorts:** At the beginning of the program, each student will be assigned to a small group, or cohort. These small groups will work together with a student mentor through specific assignments, academic competitions and various dinners/discussions throughout the program. Cohorts are utilized in order to make the program more effective as well as help develop the key skills needed for success during the summer session.
 - ii. **Ropes Course:** During the first weekend of our session, our group will travel to a local summer camp for an evening campfire for further in-depth introductions to one another, followed by a full day of ropes course interaction designed to build group morale and trust within individual cohorts. Cohorts will work together to solve a variety of mental and physical puzzles that highlight the need for critical thinking as well as working together to overcome obstacles.
 - iii. **Volunteering:** "Enter to Learn, Go Forth To Serve." The quote that welcomes individuals onto our campus reminds us that we are part of a larger social whole. On two occasions during the eight-week program, students will engage in volunteering activities with local service providers. As part of the course curriculum, students are encouraged, through face-to-face interaction and the serving of hot meals to those in need, to develop a connection with their larger community here in Keene.
 - iv. **Journaling:** A reading journal will be used each day, in which the student will be given specific prompts over the course material which allow him/her to reflect on the conceptual content of the course as well as relate that content back to his/her own decision making and future aspirations. Giving students a chance to write out and articulate their responses to questions of significance ("Do you believe your life experiences inform your moral decisions?"; "What is self-realization? When is the last time it happened to you?", etc.) allows them to think critically about their own decision making, as well as take responsibility for it in a social, classroom setting.
 - v. **Critical Reading Assignments:** These have been constructed in order to learn the skills necessary for absorbing the assigned reading material as well as for learning how to process, apply and, at times, take a position on our readings. By providing activities that encourage thoughtful, conceptual analyses of academic materials, students can begin to create positive reading techniques necessary for learning at a higher level.

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- vi. **Film Analyses:** These have been integrated into the curriculum of the common course in order to broaden the spectrum of when/how students apply their academic skill set. Key ethical problems are raised in the films chosen for this course, and the questions these analyses pose will help change the viewing of a movie from a passive, entertaining experience to an active, critically useful one.
 - vii. **Quizzes:** Two quizzes are given that will cover the core course material, ensuring that a retention of conceptual understanding is accomplished throughout the summer session. Review sessions will be provided prior to each quiz to ensure proper preparation for success.
 - viii. **Dinners and Discussions:** On several occasions, the class will dine together while opening up conversation about topics related to the course material. These dinners will also take place at times within individual cohorts. These dinners take a more relaxed approach to the material in the course and are used to explore the variety of applications it may have in students' everyday lives. Given that the program is a living-learning community, events that highlight fellowship and group interaction are crucial in establishing its success.
2. **Elective Course:** Each student will choose a 4-credit Elective course with the assistance of academic advising. This course will allow the student to choose a course for a variety of purposes: raising one's GPA through retaking and succeeding in a specific course, which utilizes Keene State Colleges "forgiveness clause;" meeting a course prerequisite which is in line with achieving full standing in one's chosen major; taking an introductory course in one's major area of interest.
- By having these two courses coincide, students will be learning both core curricular skills while also applying them towards their major area of interest.

Academic Support

Student Assistance will be provided in a number of ways:

1. **Study skills sessions:** These will be held each week on Sunday afternoons in the student's residential hall, providing a structured interaction with other students in the common course. Students will be required to join at least two of these sessions, and will be provided the opportunity to come each week.
2. **Tutoring:** This will be provided through Keene State College's ASPIRE program, which allows for one-on-one interaction with individual assignments and studying for exams. Individual and group sessions will be part of the common course curriculum, which will provide support for the various short essay assignments as well as for studying for the main quizzes for the course. ASPIRE tutors for Summer Momentum are specifically hired based upon their proficiency in the material covered in the common course.
3. **Career Advising:** Each student will meet with Academic & Career Advising in order to select his/her elective course. Additionally, a Career Workshop and follow up will be implemented into the course schedule, providing students with an understanding of how career services can help them in making decisions about choosing a major and aspiring towards long-term career goals. Further one-on-one meetings will be held throughout the session in order to help facilitate these decisions. The purpose of these

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interactions cannot be understated, in that the skills the students are learning in this course are designed for real-world application. Through these meetings and in-course development, students are provided with the necessary means for making decisions about possible future careers and planning out the coming years at Keene State College in order to help facilitate those aspirations.

4. **Cohorts:** Small groups of six students each will be constructed based upon the shared living quarters of the summer residence hall. Cohorts will share specific assignments, study hall hours, tutoring sessions, and participate in Dinner and Discussions and Film Analyses together. These smaller groups will provide a more intimate setting for discussion and personal development throughout the length of the summer session, while also encouraging camaraderie and group support. The ropes course experience that each cohort will undergo is designed to foster trust and a deeper bond between the students who will be living together over the course of the eight-week program.

Residential Living

Residential life for the Summer Momentum program is coordinated with the common course (IH-COMM 199) in order to facilitate a co-curricular experience. Each individual room shares a common space and kitchenette with the other students in one's cohort. In addition to shared course work, cohorts encourage shared dining and social activities. Identification with the college experience, through social activities, the common course curriculum and individual career exploration is the primary goal of this program. The residential component of Summer Momentum is designed to achieve just that objective.

1. **Social Activities:** Evening events will occur on Tuesday and Thursday nights, and will include the Dinner and Discussions and Film nights (as discussed above). Student Mentors, who have been selected based upon their outstanding leadership skills and knowledge of the common course material, will coordinate and lead these events. Social events will include local hiking expeditions, barbeques in the student quad area, various sporting events utilizing the gym facilities on campus, among others.
2. **Student Mentors:** SM's will not simply be monitors; they are integrated into the course curriculum as student Teaching Assistants in the classroom. With this being the case, they are also expected to provide mentoring and tutoring for students in their residence throughout the eight-week session. As a Student Teaching Assistant for the common course, SM's will also bring with them a strong academic background and conceptual understanding of the course work (IH-COMM199). Academic excellence in the course material is a pre-requisite for becoming a SM. They provide assistance in-class to the professor for specific activities, as well as direct review sessions for the quizzes and essay work required for the course. This familiarity and teaching knowledge of the subject provide strong support for the program's study-hall sessions, as well as preparation for major assignments.

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Program Cost

	New Hampshire Resident	Non-Resident
Tuition and Fees (8 credits)	3,816.00	4,136.00
Room (8 weeks)	1,200.00	1,200.00
Board (8 weeks)	1,040.00	1,040.00

Application Process

Please complete the enclosed application and submit by May 15rd, 2013 to:

Director of Continuing Education
Keene State College
229 Main St.
Keene, NH 03435-2605

The application process will include a brief interview. Once accepted, students will meet with academic advisors to select the elective course.