

EXPLORING COLLEGE

Welcome to Exploring College Fall 2020, the virtual version!

Here is almost everything you need to know about how we are working this year:

Reintroducing Our Purpose:

As always, **Exploring College** is all about **YOU!** We want our program to be whatever our students are looking for, whether that be **homework help, college application advice,** or simply a **community to de-stress with.**



PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE

WED

3:30pm-5:00pm

Workshop Sessions to prepare students for life after high school and skill building to navigate high school.

FRI

3:30pm-5:00pm

Community Building, where we bond and de-stress with fun activities!

SUN

7:00pm-8:00pm

Communal homework/general work space, when you need a little encouragement and company to get that work done.

All of these are over **Zoom**. We are also here to offer one-on-one tutoring and support for anything you need on times that work for your schedule!

How do I access the Zoom meetings?

Once you officially join our program, you'll be added to our **email list!** We'll send the Zoom links for our meetings and also info about upcoming sessions. **The links will be recurring** (ex: Wednesday Programming's link will always be the same) but **we'll also keep resending them** to make sure they don't get lost in your inbox! We'll also add you to our official Google Classroom, where we will keep a document with the links and post useful resources or programming updates.

Follow us on

Instagram!

@vcexploringcollege



Information on Our Application:

We technically have **two different applications** this year depending on what you're looking for from Exploring College!

If you would like to **join us for our programming**, get matched with a **mentor**, and have the opportunity for **one-on-one tutoring sessions** you can fill out this application here: tinyurl.com/ecprogramapp

If you are **only interested in tutoring** and don't want to participate in our group programming, you can fill out this more specific application: tinyurl.com/ectutorapp

Once you fill out the app, our Program Manager will set up a **one-on-one meeting** with you to introduce our program and learn about your interests.



The last step in the process is filling out our **permission forms**, and then you will officially be a part of Exploring College!

❖❖ EC SUMMER ❖❖ INTENSIVE RECAP:

Exploring College doesn't only run during the academic year, we also have a **two-week summer intensive!** As you might imagine, this past summer was pretty different than our usual program. Typically students stay on Vassar's campus, but this summer our program ran entirely online.



2020 was also the first year we ran our program with a specific theme, and we chose "**Exploring Climate.**" This theme mainly focused on different topics within Environmental Science, but from a socio-political perspective.



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If you have any **questions** about our offerings or applications, **check out our website** here:

tinyurl.com/ecwebinfo

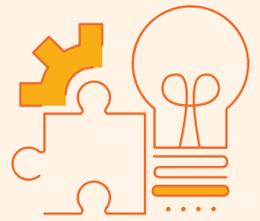


Or you can always **email the Program Manager** directly with your questions at exploringcollege@vassar.edu.



SUMMER INTENSIVE RECAP (CONTINUED):

Each morning students attended a class taught by Vassar Professor Pinar Batur. In the afternoon, we alternated between **environmental “fieldwork” sessions** and **college prep workshops**. In the evenings we ran homework sessions and community building activities. Each student was matched with a mentor who they got to know over the two weeks. We had **guest speakers** working in vastly different sectors of environmental science, including Poughkeepsie’s Urban City Planner, multiple Poughkeepsie City Council Members, Environmental Graduate Students, Vassar Professors in Biology, Chemistry, Geography, Sociology, and more!



Certification students received upon completion of the summer intensive!

In these two weeks we covered a **HUGE** amount of content. We covered topics from the **climate crisis to climate resiliency** (specifically in Poughkeepsie!) and from **environmental racism to fossil capitalism**. Students participated in hands-on activities including a plant identification journal and an at-home cooking activity. In our college workshops we talked about how to find the right college for you, how to start the college essay, how to write a resume, and more!

Each student also produced **TWO final projects!** The first was a **policy letter** to local policy makers focusing on a specific environmental initiative that could lessen our environmental impact. Students came up with really creative and meaningful ideas--and we discussed how to actually send these letters off to make a difference! The second project had students think about how climate change has personally impacted them. Students were also able to show this personal narrative in any way they wanted to. We saw **impressive visual representations** ranging from collages to stop motion drawing videos. On our last day of programming, all students shared their final projects and we celebrated the amazing creativity, work ethic, and community care everyone demonstrated!



INTERVIEWS: Get to know our mentors!



Q. What is your most embarrassing Zoom moment?



ASHO: I told my professor I couldn't turn on my camera because of technical issues but really I just wanted to work out. I guess the camera turns on by itself after it detects a certain amount of movement, because it turned on right in the middle of me doing some jumping jacks.

ELLA: I thought I was muted/video off on Zoom but instead I got caught talking to my cat in the middle of a meeting (specifically calling him "the most handsome man around" and also "the dumbest boy alive").

IRIS: I fully fell asleep during one of my classes and when I woke up it was 40 min after my class had ended, so pretty sure my prof was just like "Why is this girl staying on?"

JOSHUA: I was once in a meeting where Zoom was stuck on the green screen setting and I was wearing a green shirt. I just looked like a disembodied head.

Q. What are your favorite study-from-home bops/jams?



ASHO: "Dynamite (Tropical Mix)" by BTS, "People" by AGUST D, and "Toast" by Koffee.

ELLA: "Fight Like Ida B & Marsha P" by Ric Wilson, "Hard Times" by Paramore, and "Bennie and the Belts" by Elton John.

KELLY: I really like to listen to music in other languages while I work because I don't get as distracted by the words! Some of my recent faves include the albums *L'ère du Verseau* by Yelle and *Matahari* by L'imperatrice.

LUKE: "Day N Nite" by Kid Cudi, "Can I Kick It?" by A Tribe Called Quest, and "Same Drugs" by Chance the Rapper.

Q. What was your most embarrassing quarantine watch?



IRIS: Keeping Up with the Kardashians

JOSHUA: Troll Hunters



KELLY (PROGRAM MANAGER): Riverdale "cringe" compilation videos

LUKE: Love Island



MELISA: The Twilight movie series

SASHI: Rewatched Jersey Shore



MELISA: "Location Unknown" by HONNE, Georgia.

SASHI: "It's All So Incredibly Loud" by Glass Animals, "Tongue Tied" by Grouplove, and "505" by Arctic Monkeys.