

EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM SUMMER INSTITUTE (ECPSI)

Frequently Asked Questions

More information can be found at our website under ECP Summer Institute Student Information page:

<http://www.saic.edu/continuing-studies/high-school/summer/student-information>

- **How do I get downtown once I arrive in Chicago?**

CTA Blue Line, cab, or Airport Express (1.888.2THEVAN / airportexpress.com). SAIC does not provide a shuttle. Detailed info can be found in the ECP Summer Institute Student Info PDF.

- **Can I live off-campus?**

Living in SAIC's residence hall is not required, but highly recommended. Prior ECPSI students have mentioned the benefits of living on campus, such as easy access to classrooms and studios, engaging with other students, and partaking in residence life activities.

- **If I choose to live in the Residence Hall, what should I bring?**

Students living in the residence hall must provide bed linens and blankets (extra-long twin sheets or any fitted sheet, blanket or sleeping bag, and pillow), towels, toiletries (toilet paper, shampoo, soap, toothpaste, etc.), alarm clock, cooking and eating utensils (plate, fork, knife, spoon, etc.), laundry and dish detergent (as needed), a combination lock if students wish to make use of lockers available in academic buildings to store supplies, and art supplies.

Note: All of the above items can be purchased after you arrive in Chicago – Target is steps from the residence hall. Do not ship personal items in advance of your arrival; we cannot hold these items for you. Anything shipped to our office will be returned to sender.

- **What is expected of me in terms of coursework?**

Each class is different and will have its own requirements. However, all students should expect to get homework during the week and on the weekends. The ECP Summer Institute is an advanced program granting college credit upon successful completion. Students are expected to complete assignments outside of class and therefore should plan to spend approximately two hours each evening in the studios. Students are here first and foremost for an intensive academic experience in the visual arts.

- **Can ECPSI courses be audited/taken for non-credit?**

ECPSI courses are credit only and cannot be audited.

- **How large are ECPSI classes?**

It depends on the class. Courses that require specialized equipment like computers, etc., are usually limited to 12–14. Other classes are closer to 14 – 20. Average ratio of instructional staff to student is 1:8

- **How much work can I expect to produce during an ECPSI course?**

As with homework, each class is different and will yield its own unique product. However, students should expect to produce several initial projects/assignments in addition to a final project that is self-driven. Combining two 2-week courses or taking a 4-week course will result in much more work.

- **Is there additional support for international students?**

SAIC has an international affairs office that can help to support international students:

<http://www.saic.edu/lifeatsaic/internationalaffairs/>

While international students cannot apply for need-based financial aid, they may apply for merit scholarships to help assist with the cost of the program.

- **What about supplies for the course?**

Art supplies are the responsibility of the student. Supply lists will be available in late May for Session 1 courses, with Sessions 2, 3, and 4 distributed shortly thereafter. All enrolled students will be emailed the link to the supply lists, so make sure to provide us with an active email.

NOTE: Due to the flexible nature of our courses, we do not recommend purchasing all supplies before you leave. Instructors address supplies on the first day of class and a majority of these can be purchased around SAIC's campus. Certain items should be procured ahead of time, such as digital SLR cameras for photo classes, etc. You are also free to bring supplies that you already have and do not want to purchase once in Chicago.

• **How are ECPSI students supervised?**

ECPSI students are allowed free time for lunch, between classes and curfew (curfew is for residential students but the city of Chicago also has a curfew), and on the weekends. Students and parents should discuss self-regulation and self-discipline, and students are highly encouraged to travel in groups in and around the campus area. We do not recommend using the public transportation system (CTA) unless travelling in groups with at least one person who is familiar with the Chicago area. If parents or students are looking for a program with one hundred percent supervision, they should consider the nature of this program thoroughly before registering. Instructional staff supervises use of the CTA system during class and there are also supervised outings coordinated by residence life on evenings and weekends so students may explore the city.

ECPSI students are required to check in/out for the times/events listed below.

9:00 a.m., M-F- class attendance taken	(all students)
12:00 p.m., M-F- students released for lunch	(all students)
1:00 p.m., M-F- class attendance checked post lunch	(all students)
6:00 p.m., T/Th- workshop attendance taken	(all students)
10:00 p.m., S-Th- curfew in residence hall	(residential students only)
11:00 p.m., F/S- curfew in residence hall	(residential students only)
7:30 a.m., everyday- students allowed to leave residence hall	(residential students only)

NOTE: lunch times may differ slightly if classes are on a field trip, need to alter the time due to a project, etc. Teaching Assistants still keep attendance during these times.

• **What happens if I get sick?**

ECPSI students can visit SAIC's wellness center for minor issues such as a cold, nausea, etc. Depending on the issue and time of day in which care is needed, a trip to a local hospital or clinic may be required. SAIC staff always accompanies students in any of these cases. Make sure to have an insurance card with you at all times while here at SAIC.

• **How does my work get home?**

Students are responsible for getting their work home. We are unable to store, pack, or ship work for students. Instructors and TAs will help students prep to pack up work at the end of the session. Work that cannot be transported home can be photographed and/or videoed. See the ECP Summer Institute Student Information page for a list of packing/shipping suppliers.

NOTE: The only exception is if SAIC asks a student to leave their work for extended exhibition purposes, at which time we will discuss shipping the work home for the student or disposing of it properly.

• **Is there a final exhibition?**

YES! Each session ends with an exhibition on the final day of class (Friday), from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Parents, family, and friends are encouraged to attend. This is a great time to see other course works, discuss your experience in ECPSI, and meet SAIC faculty, staff, and admissions representatives.