Pre-Graduate School Cohort: The Academy

The route to graduate school may be clear to some entering students but, for most, it emerges after explorations into fields of knowledge, connections with faculty, and discussions with significant others in their lives.

As undergraduates gain confidence in their talent and abilities to contribute to society, they may decide to pursue academic research or teaching careers. They may grasp the value of advanced study to their future success in a variety of occupations outside of academia. Exposure through conference attendance, mentored research, and graduate school exploration can help them to clarify their ambitions and to prepare for a competitive admissions process.

The Academy's Pre-Graduate School Cohort will begin with an introductory workshop open to participants in the Summer Collegiate Experience and to sophomores who attend CAE's Second Year Conference. Students’ success depends on early identification of aspiring students and flexibility dependent on students’ scholarly interests.

In their third and fourth years, CAE students, working with their advisors and Deans, will meet with panels of graduate students to learn from them of their decision-making processes that led them to graduate school. By utilizing Faculty mentors in their majors within the College of Letters & Science, students can discuss ways to engage in research, explore the significance of and variations among graduate school programs nationally, and of ways to enhance their application profiles.

Pre-Graduate School students will attend pre-GRE workshops as well as application workshops through partnerships with CAE and the Writing Center, the Graduate School, and McNair Scholars.

Semester One: Fall
  Leadership Launch, following SCE participation
  Advising
  Undergraduate Research Scholars Course
  Meet & Greet with Faculty, advising staff, and Graduate School representative
  Majors Fair
  Opening social with parents, prelaw and premed/dental cohorts
  Financial Aid planning
  Standardized (multiple choice) test-taking skills workshop
  Academic mentoring, as needed

Semester Two: Spring
  Advising
  Undergraduate Research Scholars Course
Social with cohorts & SCE students
Test-taking skills workshop
Resume and personal statement workshop
Introduction to departmental student organizations
  (i.e. Psychology, Economics, Legal Studies)

Semester Three: Fall
  Meet & Greet with Faculty, advising staff, and Graduate School representative
  Advising
  Financial Aid planning
  Workshop: Applying to summer STEM enhancement programs, if desired

Semester Four: Spring
  Advising
  Career workshop
  McNair workshop
  Exploring majors workshop (with faculty?)

Semester Five:
  Advising, as needed
  Workshop: Is Graduate School for Me?
  McNair Program (if accepted)
  Graduate student meet & greet/panel
  GRE workshop

Semester Six:
  Advising, as needed
  Graduate School student and/or Faculty mentoring
  McNair program (if accepted)
  Application: Peer Mentor
  Workshop: Financing Graduate School/Scholarships
  Workshop: Letters of Recommendation
  Research into summer STEM programs

Semester Seven:
  Library research: exploring graduate school programs nationwide
  GRE Preparation
  Faculty Mentoring
  Peer mentoring (if accepted)
  Workshop: the application process
  Conference attendance (dependent on student’s interest)

Semester Eight:
  GRE
  Application advising (Graduate School)