Pre-First Year in Engineering and Science Program

What is PreF?
The Pre-First Year in Engineering and Science Program (PreF) is an academic summer bridge program designed for first-year students in an engineering or science based major. PreF also includes structured social and cultural activities that invite students to build relationships with each other and relate in-class experiences to out-of-class programs. The overall objective is to maximize the retention of first-year students in engineering and science majors at Penn State. We do this by guiding participants toward academic success through first-year required courses, giving them a head-start into a challenging yet rewarding field.

A Closer Look
PreF students will have a head start in transitioning to the college pace, in particular, to the College of Engineering’s curriculum. Group study sessions will be incorporated into the schedule, along with professional development workshops and a field trip to enhance the classroom experiences.

After 23 successful years of the PreF program at Penn State, we have become aware of the specific benefits that the program can bring to our students. Research indicates that participants:
• Have a higher GPA than non-participants
• More likely to graduate from the College of Engineering
• More likely to obtain competitive-salary internships, co-ops, and full-time employment
• Improved opportunity to earn amazing academic scholarships
• Acclimate more easily to the college environment
• Build an extensive network of lifelong friends
• Learn effective college study skills
• Earn college credit

The PreF Experience
“PreF was one of the most enjoyable summers I’ve ever had. Not only did I meet people from across the U.S., but I was also introduced to important faculty members, as well as mentors, who aided me during the summer while studying various branches of math and science.”
— Ikenna Okafor, Computer Engineering

“Looking back, PreF was one of the most beneficial experiences of my life. It opened my eyes to college life and engineering in a way that nothing else could. Because of PreF, I have gained the skills, knowledge, and ability to be the successful person that I am today.”
— Jason B. Morris, Penn State Alumnus, Electrical Engineering
What You Need to Know

WHERE
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA (State College, PA)
* PreF participants will be housed in student residence halls on campus

WHEN
Sunday, June 17 – Friday, July 27, 2018
* Move-in day is Sunday, June 17, 2018 from 8:00 to 9:45 a.m.

COST
$1,500 per student
* Cost includes room and board, field trips, courses, tutoring and professional development programs. This program is subsidized through corporate and University sponsorships. If you are unable to pay the entirety of the fee, please include a Statement of Financial Need and how much you are able to contribute along with your application. Students will have access to computer labs, library resources, and the library. All participants must provide their own transportation to and from State College.

Program Application
Please complete the enclosed application. Do not send payment at this time. Program fees will be collected upon acceptance into the program.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 30, 2018

For more information, contact:
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Institutional Support
PreF Previews:
Calculus
Chemistry
College Study Skills
Peer-mentoring
Campus Life Orientation
Exploration of Engineering Majors
Course Scheduling Strategies
Networking with Current Students

Corporate Sponsors
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Penn State Endowments
National Science Foundation, Penn State Chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers Program, Endowment of the Multicultural Engineering Program in the COE, Multicultural Engineering Program Support, Endowment in the COE, Penn State Office of Educational Equity

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