About the Hofstra University Youth Academy

Hofstra Youth Academy offers a wide range of academic, enrichment, and exploration classes. Each class is led by New York state-certified teachers and/or professionals in the different areas.

Our academic classes follow the appropriate New York State Standards and Curriculum for that subject area. Students have the opportunity to work on and develop the skills and concepts taught to them in school. Students are then challenged to take what they have learned and apply the concepts to expand their knowledge base and build their self-confidence.

Our courses allow students to explore new interests or dive deeper into topics they are passionate about – from learning a new language, to designing a video game, to building programs to create websites and automate everyday tasks! And if your student needs a little extra help in reading, writing, and math, we have a course that focuses on all three subjects.

For more information, including registration, tuition, and discounts, visit ce.hofstra.edu/youth or call 516-463-7400.
STEM: Pre-K and Kindergarten
Students work with manipulatives and hands-on materials to make discoveries or create projects. During the first half of each class, students discuss and learn about a specific science concept. Then, during the second half of class, they apply that concept to build, create, or conduct their own experiments.

STEM: Grades 3-5
The topics taught in this class change every semester. Therefore, students can enjoy hands-on science throughout the year. Each week, students explore a new topic and complete a project related to that topic. This class includes various experiments and hands-on activities.

STEM: Grades 9-12
Students begin their journeys as future builders and creators as they learn the fundamentals, fun, and frustration of engineering design. Students build something new in each class and learn the importance of testing and evaluating their original design as they take thoughtful steps to improve their design through the process of iteration. Students also learn how to refine their cooperative, evaluative, design, creative, and presentation skills as they move through the weekly projects.

Beginner Spanish: K-Grade 2
Taught through storytelling, interactive technology, and hands-on activities, students learn how to read, write, and speak Spanish, and are introduced to Spanish culture. Topics include numbers, the alphabet, days of the week, months of the year, and holidays.

Speech & Debate: Grades 7-12
Students learn and refine their public speaking skills while developing strong debate tactics. Students perfect their speeches through writing and practicing the delivery of their messages. They work individually to customize their delivery to different audiences, and create their own arguments. Students have specific goals and challenges each day, which they take on both individually and in groups. While building and playing, students gain an appreciation for math and science, and see their creativity and social skills soar. Both newcomers and experienced Minecraft players are invited to have fun and learn together!

STEM: Grades 1 and 2
Each week, students explore a new STEM topic and complete a project related to that topic. This class includes a variety of experiments and hands-on activities. Note: Topics change every semester, so students can enjoy hands-on science yearlong.

STEM: Grades 6-8
Each week, students spend the first half of the class learning about a STEM concept. During the second half of the class, students apply what they learned by conducting an experiment or constructing a take-home project.

Minecraft Builders Club: Grades 2-5
It’s Minecraft mania at Hofstra University! In this fun new course, students use the ever-popular Minecraft video game to build worlds, solve puzzles, and create together. Students have specific goals and challenges each day, which they take on both individually and in groups. While building and playing, students gain an appreciation for math and science, and see their creativity and social skills soar. Both newcomers and experienced Minecraft players are invited to have fun and learn together!

Science: High School Chemistry
Chemistry is the structure and composition of matter – and matter is what makes up all living things and the environment around us. Topics include chemical reactions, solutions, and chemical bonds.

Intermediate Spanish: Grades 3-5
Students are sure to enjoy this fun and exciting course as they continue to expand their knowledge of the Spanish language and culture. Topics include an introduction to conversations, verbs, and popular phrases.

Fiction Writing for Teens: Grades 6-8
Students hone their creative writing skills, gain inspiration, and connect with other young writers. They learn how to improve their structure, characterization, pacing, grammar, dramatic tension, and voice. Students spend a portion of each class working independently on their writing. They also read their work aloud and exchange gentle critiques with fellow writers to gain confidence in their storytelling abilities.

Art Enrichment: Grades 3-5
Students work with a variety of fine arts materials to guide their journey toward self-identity and balance. Students create projects tied to well-known historical and contemporary artists. During the first half of each class, students learn about a specific type of art medium/style, artists, and techniques. During the second half of class, students apply the concept they learned to create their own artwork. At the end of each class, students are introduced to the concept of art critique and engage in presentation/gallery discussions with classmates and the instructor.

Critical Thinking: Grades 7-12
Critical thinking helps us understand ourselves and the world around us – from achieving our personal goals to identifying and solving problems on a national or global scale. It involves a close attention to detail, an ability to stand back from a situation, weighing pros and cons, and, ultimately, making decisions based on information collected.

YouTube Video Production: Grades 6-12
YouTube is the largest, most successful video platform on the web. In this course, students graduate from viewers to creators! Using a variety of recording and capture tools, as well as photo, video, and audio editing tools accessible right from home, students learn a wealth of new creative and technological skills to get them ready to take on their next big video idea. Students also learn creative writing and public speaking techniques adaptable to many situations and professional fields.

Roblox Creators Club: Grades 2-5
Using the incredible developer tools in Roblox Studio, students design their own vast 3D game worlds with customized interactive objects, realistic special effects, amazing physics systems, and much more! In addition, with Roblox Studio’s LUA programming language, students use coding to customize their games and reach new heights.

Winter Review (Reading, Writing, and Math): K-Grade 8
This program is designed for students who may need extra assistance in any or all of these subject areas. Students focus on reading, writing, and math (one hour for each subject), with different instructors for each subject. Students should bring a snack to enjoy during a break.

The History of Jazz Music: Grades 3-6
This course explores the magnificent history of jazz music in America. Students learn about jazz greats such as Louis Armstrong, Count Basie, John Coltrane, Miles Davis, Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday, Charlie Parker, Sonny Rollins, Sarah Vaughan, Lester Young, Thelonious Monk, and Ella Fitzgerald.