

Learning Excellence in Academics Program (LEAP)

Are you Ready to LEAP into COLLEGE?

What is LEAP?

- 5 week collaborative program with the Virginia Commonwealth University
- Affords rising high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to assess their college-readiness skills
- Classes taught by college professors and/or graduate students
- Classes graded according to collegiate standards (not reflected on transcript)
- Enhance awareness of the academic and blindness-related demands of college
- Evaluate ability to manage time and priorities
- Must have 6 accepted applicants

Dates to remember for LEAP

- Application Deadline: April 18, 2016, or until program is full
- Program Begins: 1:00 p.m., July 10, 2016
- Graduation Ceremony: 2:00-5:00 p.m., August 11, 2016 (MCV Campus)
- Students have to be off the VRCBVI Campus no later than 12:00 p.m., August 12, 2016

LEAP Overview

- Focus on STEM-H Classes

UNIV 101 could include:

- Blackboard
- Public Speaking
- Mock Interviews
- DSS office
- Instructors
- Professionalism
- Career Exploration
- Market Analysis
- Learning Assessment
- Advocacy Skills
- College Applications
- Effective Writing/Reading
- Learning Skills/Test Taking Strategies
- Requesting Accommodations

Sample Leap Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
08:00					
09:00	Science 9:00-9:50	Science 9:00-9:50	Science 9:00-9:50	Science 9:00-9:50	Science 9:00-9:50
10:00					LAB
11:00	Academic Writing 11:00-11:50	Academic Writing 11:00-11:50	Academic Writing 11:00-11:50	Academic Writing 11:00-11:50	Academic Writing 11:00-11:50
12:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:00	College Algebra 1:00-1:50	College Algebra 1:00-1:50	College Algebra 1:00-1:50	College Algebra 1:00-1:50	College Algebra 1:00-1:50
2:00- 3:30	UNIV 101 2:00-3:30				
4:00					

LEAP Assessment Staffings

Assessment staffings will occur within two weeks of the completion of College LEAP. Students meet by teleconference with designated VRCBVI and VCU staff, their VR Counselor, and appropriate family members to report assessment results and recommendations.

Requirements for LEAP

- Must be blind or vision impaired
- Be a rising junior or senior in high school
- Have access to an existing E-mail account (Gmail, Yahoo, AOL, etc.)
- Have a method for and be prepared to take written notes during class
- Be able to participate in a full five-week program
- Be able to participate in a program that is group structured
- Be able to take care of his/her own personal care needs
- Have a valid state of Virginia ID card

What is the application process for LEAP?

- Contact Amy Phelps, (804) 371-3052 or [✉ amy.phelps@dbvi.virginia.gov](mailto:amy.phelps@dbvi.virginia.gov), who will assist you with contacting the student's Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Counselor, and beginning the application process
- Counselor submits a **completed** application packet to VRCBVI by April 18, 2016 which includes:
 1. Completed VRCBVI application
 2. Documented GPA of 2.5 or above
 3. Personal Statement (500 words or less)
 4. 2 letters of reference (one academic reference)

- After the **completed** application has been reviewed, the VR Counselor and parents are notified within two weeks whether the applicant is accepted. Hurry! Applications accepted until program reaches capacity of fifteen students. Applicants accepted after the program is full will be placed on a waiting list.

For additional information about the College LEAP or to schedule a tour of VRCBVI, contact:

Virginia Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and Vision Impaired

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