

# A GUIDE TO PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAMS AT WABASH COLLEGE



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Think critically, act responsibly, lead effectively, and live humanely.

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# WELCOME

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

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**Tyler Wade**  
**Director of Pre-College Programs**

Dear Families,

Welcome to Pre-College Programs at Wabash College. Each year, I am inspired by how these campers grow and evolve. What began as a bold experiment has become a transformative experience where students discover their strengths, form friendships, and imagine futures they hadn't yet considered.

This year marks an important step in that journey. Our Molecules to Medicines camp enters its second year, sparking curiosity about science and research. Playbook for Life continues to reveal the surprising ways athletics and the liberal arts intersect. Pathway to Your Future grows ever more vital, helping students build confidence, skills, and networks to pursue their dreams. Together, these programs reflect Wabash's deep belief in the potential of young people.

What excites me most each year is not only what students will learn, but how they will grow in a single week. They will step onto campus, meet peers from across the country, and take on challenges that help them see themselves in new ways. The friendships formed and the confidence gained often last far beyond their time on campus each summer.

On behalf of our faculty, staff, and peer mentors, thank you for entrusting us on your child's journey. We are committed to making this summer a safe, meaningful, and memorable experience, and cannot wait to welcome your family to Wabash.

With gratitude,  
Tyler Wade '12  
Director of Pre-College Programs

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# WABASH COLLEGE MISSION & PHILOSOPHY

The mission of Wabash College is simple and profound: to educate men to think critically, act responsibly, lead effectively, and live humanely. For nearly 200 years, Wabash College has been a place where intellectual rigor meets personal integrity, and where students prepare not just for careers, but for meaningful lives of leadership and service.

Our Pre-College Programs extend that mission by offering rising high school students a week-long residential experience on our campus in Crawfordsville, Indiana. In these programs, students explore passions, build community, and gain early exposure to the rhythms of college life. Each camp is rooted in the core values that define Wabash College: curiosity, excellence, responsibility, and joyful engagement.

Wabash College is recognized as:

- A top 50 National Liberal Arts College ( US News & World Report).
- The #1 Liberal Arts College in Indiana and one of the Best Value Schools in the country (Princeton Review, U.S. News, Niche).
- A place where 99% of students receive some form of financial aid and where the return-on-investment ranks among the nation's best.
- A campus community of 900+ students from 29 states and 28 countries, where face-to-face mentorship, rigorous academics, and strong traditions create a lifelong network.

Our philosophy of education extends far beyond the classroom. Wabash men experience:

- Exceptional Faculty Access. Wabash College is ranked #2 nationally for faculty accessibility (Princeton Review).
- Hands-on opportunities. Wabash College prides itself with top-tier internship opportunities. 82% of students have one or more internships in four years (Princeton Review).
- Sustained career success. Wabash College graduates enjoy a 97% first-destination rate at 6 months post-graduation (Class of 2024), 87% law school acceptance (10-Year Average), and 92% medical school acceptance (10-Year Average). Alumni hold titles such as CEOs, scientists, civic leaders, and entrepreneurs.

# OUR CORE VALUES

At Wabash Summer Programs, our values are lived practices shared by everyone including staff, peer mentors, and students. This helps to shape a community of respect, discovery, and joy throughout camp.

## **Respect & Integrity:**

At Wabash College, everything begins with the Gentleman's Rule: "the student is expected to conduct himself at all times, both on and off campus, as a gentleman and a responsible citizen." At camp, this principle guides how we treat one another.

## **Excellence in Learning:**

Wabash College is known for its academic rigor and dedicated faculty. Our camps reflect that spirit through high standards, engaging workshops, and faculty-led activities that challenge and inspire curiosity.

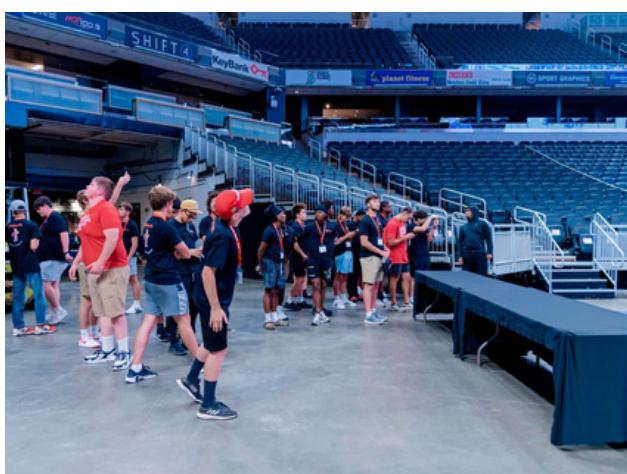
## **Experiential Growth:**

At Wabash College, we believe students learn best by doing. Through hands-on labs, fieldworks, and group reflections, students explore ideas, take risks, and connect classroom lessons to real life.

## **Community & Connection:**

With close mentorship, Wabash College students thrive on relationships. At camp, students, peer mentors, and staff build friendships and trust that last well beyond camp.

**Joyful Engagement:** Learning is most meaningful when it's joyful. At our Pre-College Programs, traditions, community events, and shared laughter turn each day into a celebration of growth and discovery.



# PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

To meet the diverse interests of students, Wabash College offers three distinct summer camps, each with its own focus, activities, and opportunities:

## Playbook For Life: Navigating Careers in the World of Sports



This program is built for students who want to explore the world of sports and leadership through the lens of a liberal arts education. Participants learn directly from faculty and professionals about the wide range of careers connected to athletics, from sports management and communications to health and performance sciences. Workshops, group projects, and guest speakers connect lessons from the field to skills needed in college and beyond, showing students how sports can open doors to broader leadership and career opportunities.

## Molecules to Medicines

This program invites students into the world of science and discovery. Students work alongside faculty in labs to explore how medicines are developed from molecules into the treatments that reaches patients. In addition to hands-on experiments, participants meet professionals in pharmaceutical and agricultural sciences, giving them an inside look at research and innovation in action. For students interested in Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math (STEM), this program provides both inspiration and practical exposure to potential career paths.



## Pathway to Your Future

Designed to help students grow as leaders in their schools and communities, this camp builds confidence, strengthens communication skills, and equips participants with practical strategies for academic and personal success. Through workshops on leadership, teamwork, identity, and civic engagement, students engage in college-level learning experiences that challenge them to think critically and collaborate effectively. By the end of camp, participants leave with concrete tools to support their communities and a clearer understanding of how to thrive academically and personally.



# APPLICATION, & CHECK-IN PROCESS

Our Pre-College Programs are designed to give students a meaningful, structured start to their college experience. Below is an overview of the application process and timeline, program acceptance process, and what families can expect during check-in and drop-off.

## **Application Process**

Our summer programs are competitive. Applications are submitted online through our Pre-College Programs website at [wabash.edu/programs](http://wabash.edu/programs). All application materials are due in the spring, and decision notifications are sent by the end of April. To secure their spot, accepted students submit a refundable \$50 program deposit, which is returned on the final day of camp.

## **Drop-off, Check-in, & Pick-up**

Because each camp is unique, check-in locations differ by program and may change from year to year. Prior to arrival, families will receive a confirmation email or text with the exact check-in time, location, and logistical details. There will be clear signage to guide families to the correct location upon arrival. Peer mentors and staff will be present to greet families, assist with luggage, and support students throughout the check-in experience. After receiving room assignments, students are escorted to their residence hall rooms where peer mentors help them settle in.

During the check-in process, a designated staff member will meet with families to:

- Review health information and answer medical questions
- Collect and securely store medications that need to be managed during camp (Families are encouraged to send only the amount needed for the week in clearly labeled packaging.)
- Provide information about how daily health, safety, and supervision are handled

Once students are settled, families are invited to join an introductory presentation about Wabash College, the camp experience, and key program highlights. Families may also participate on a campus tour, offered immediately after the presentation to explore Wabash's historic campus and learn more about the spaces students will be using throughout the week.

# TRAVEL INFORMATION

Getting students to and from camp safely is a key part of the Wabash Summer Program experience. We work closely with families to make all travel whether by car, shuttle, or airplane smooth, safe, and stress-free.

## Ground Transportation

For students traveling from nearby states, Wabash College organizes group transportation whenever possible. Our campus drivers and staff coordinate routes, shuttle schedules, and pick-up points with families well in advance. In case of any last minute's changes, we communicate promptly so families remain fully informed. Families who prefer to manage their own travel are always welcome to drop off or pick up their student directly at campus.

## Air Travel Support

For students flying to camp, Wabash College provides a range of supports:

- **Airport Pickup & Drop-Off:** Wabash staff and campus drivers coordinate timely airport transportation to and from campus. To ensure efficiency, families are encouraged to submit their students' flight itineraries in advance so arrangements can be made. We encourage families to consider 45 minutes to one hour commute time from the Indianapolis Airport to Wabash College when booking flights.
- **Limited Travel Reimbursement:** To help make camp more accessible, Wabash College offers a \$200 flight reimbursement, issued after successful completion of the camp week. Interested parents will fill out a flight reimbursement form to get reimbursed at the end of camp
- **Chaperoned Travel (When needed):** If a student requires additional support, we may help coordinate a chaperone to accompany them on their flight, depending on availability and advance notice.

Whether traveling alone, with a group, or through school partnerships, our goal is to make every student's journey to Wabash College safe, supportive, and welcoming. To protect every participant, all transportation arrangements follow our two-adult safety rule, as outlined in our Minors on Campus Policy. The rule states that "in no circumstance will any student be left alone with an adult without the presence of a second adult"





# OVERNIGHT HOUSING & SECURITY

Students stay in one of Wabash's residence halls such as Martindale Hall located at the center of campus. These halls are more than dorms; they are designed to foster community, independence, and belonging. Campers are typically paired or grouped 2–4 per room through a thoughtful placement process that balances comfort with the opportunity to form new friendships. Whenever possible, students are paired with peers they haven't met before to encourage connection while still honoring individual needs and inclusion.

Peer mentors who are current Wabash students serve as Residential Assistants (RAs) and live in the same residence hall as students, strategically housed on each floor. They not only supervise but also guide evening activities, help students adjust to dorm life, and encourage reflection at the end of each day. Families can be assured that their children are supported not just by staff, but by peer mentors who understand what it means to thrive in a learning community.

Designated Wabash staff are available to respond to urgent or emergency needs at any time. For regular personal updates or non-emergency communication, families are welcome to connect with their students during free time or evening recess hours, so the flow of camp life remains uninterrupted. To keep supervision strong and personal, Wabash College staff and peer mentors maintains close oversight across all settings of residence halls, workshops, field trips, and recreational activities.

## **Building Security**

Residence halls remain locked with access restricted to students, peer mentors, and authorized staff. Camper items and belongings remain secure, with staff oversight and campus security on standby whenever additional support is needed. However, individual students are highly encouraged to be responsible for the safety of their own belongings. This safe, structured environment mirrors the independence of college life while preserving the protection families expect.



# DAILY LIFE AT CAMP

While each Summer Program is unique, all camps follow a balanced daily rhythm that blends academic exploration, recreation, community connection, and rest. This structure helps students stay energized, focused, and fully engaged throughout the week.

To better manage camp, students and staff co-create a community agreement that defines how they will treat one another and shape camp culture together. The following elements underpin a strong community agreement:

- Respect & Inclusion: Treat everyone with kindness and fairness; bullying or discrimination will not be tolerated.
- Safety & Responsibility: Stay with your group, follow staff directions, and never be alone with a single adult.
- Housing & Property: Respect roommates, belongings, and college facilities.
- Engagement & Participation: Be on time, stay involved, and bring a positive attitude.
- Prohibited Conduct: Alcohol, tobacco, vaping, illegal substances, weapons, and unsafe or inappropriate behavior are not allowed.

When expectations are not met, camp staff approach discipline as a learning process, focusing on the behavior, not blame. A progressive three-strike system is used to address concerns:

- First: Verbal warning and reflective conversation with a staff member or peer mentor.
- Second: Formal warning, review of shared values and the community agreement, and parents are notified.
- Third: Dismissal at family expense

Serious violations such as violence, possession of prohibited items, or actions that endanger others may lead to immediate dismissal from the program.

A typical camp day looks like this:

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
7:30 AM:	Breakfast in the dining hall
8:30 AM – 12:00 PM:	Morning sessions (workshops, STEM labs, field trips, etc.)
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM:	Lunch
1:15 PM – 4:00 PM:	Afternoon activities (team challenges, outdoor recreation, etc.)
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM:	Free time and rest in residence halls
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM:	Dinner with peers, staff, and peer mentors
7:30 PM – 9:00 PM:	Evening activities (guest speaker, group games, reflection, etc.)
9:00 PM – 9:30 PM:	Floor check-in and community wind-down
10:00 PM:	Lights out



## FIELD TRIPS & SPECIAL EVENTS

One of the highlights of Wabash Pre-College Programs is the opportunity to step beyond the classroom and connect learning with the real world. Each camp includes carefully planned field trips and special events that expose students to professional environments, industry leaders, and inspiring experiences.

Playbook for Life students spend time immersed in the world of athletics and leadership. Past visits have included the NCAA National Office and Hall of Champions, where students see the heart of collegiate sports governance; the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, where they learn about the business and culture of motorsports; and Gainbridge Fieldhouse, home of the Indiana Pacers & Fever, where students watch a live WNBA game. Students also interact with alumni working in sports, attend keynotes by professionals in athletics and business, and even explore the business of sports apparel and branding.

Molecules to Medicines offers students a firsthand look at careers in science and health. Students tour Eli Lilly, a leader in pharmaceutical research and development, and Corteva Agriscience, where they learn how chemistry and biology shape modern agriculture. In addition to these site visits, they participate in an alumni panel featuring professionals in medicine, biotech, and pharma. These experiences, combined with lab work on campus, help students connect theory with practice in a powerful way.

Pathway to Your Future takes students into civic and community settings. While much of the camp is grounded in workshops and mentoring, students may meet local leaders, tour community organizations, or hear from panels of alumni and professionals committed to public service and social change. These encounters allow students to see how leadership and civic responsibility translate into real impact.

Across all programs, students also take part in evening events such as guest lectures, films, and alumni keynotes, where they are encouraged to ask questions, think critically, and see how their own passions might fit into larger stories of innovation, leadership, and service.



# HEALTH, SAFETY & DINING AT CAMP

The well-being of every camper is at the heart of the Wabash Summer Programs. From medical care and dining to emergency preparedness, we put clear systems in place so families can feel confident that their children are safe, supported, and thriving throughout the week.

## MEDICAL CARE

At check-in, camp staff are available to meet families, review health concerns, and collect medications. During the week, staff remain on site to provide first aid, manage medications, and address health needs as they arise. If a serious situation occurs, we coordinate immediately with local emergency services and promptly contact parents or guardians.

## ALLERGY & MEDICATION POLICIES

To keep students safe, all medications must be checked in at arrival and are securely stored and administered according to family instructions. Critical items such as inhalers or EpiPens may remain with the camper if pre-approved. Staff are trained to recognize and respond quickly to allergic reactions and follow emergency protocols when necessary.

## DINING & FOOD ALLERGIES

Meals are provided by Bon Appétit, Wabash College's professional dining service. Students eat together in the main dining hall, where they enjoy balanced, youth-friendly meals with multiple options at every service. Bon Appétit staff work closely with camp leaders to accommodate dietary restrictions and food allergies. Clear allergen labels are posted, and families can share specific needs in advance through the application process.

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

All camp staff and peer mentors are trained in Wabash College's emergency response procedures. In the case of severe weather, fire, or other emergencies, students are escorted to designated safe locations and attendance is carefully logged. Families will be notified in a timely manner should any significant emergency occur.

# STAYING CONNECTED & PACKING LIST

To help your student stay comfortable, safe, and ready for a full week of activities, Wabash College provides limited bedding, including basic sheets and pillows. Families are strongly encouraged to bring additional items such as comforters, blankets, or extra pillows to make the dorm room feel more like home. All residence halls use extra-large twin-sized beds, so any bedding brought from home should fit that size. We recommend that families refer to the packing guide for each camp on the below pages. We strongly recommend labeling all belongings with your student's name to prevent mix-ups.

## STAYING CONNECTED WITH STUDENTS

We understand how important it is for families to feel confident while their child is away from home. Wabash Summer Programs are designed to help students build independence while ensuring parents stay informed and connected throughout the week.

Parents may contact the camp office during regular business hours for general inquiries or to reach their child.

For general questions or to reach your student

 Camp Office (24/7):

Halle Vincent: 765-761-7652. Email: [vincenth@wabash.edu](mailto:vincenth@wabash.edu)

For urgent or time-sensitive concerns

 Program Director: Tyler Wade. (765) 721-0927. Email: [wadetw@wabash.edu](mailto:wadetw@wabash.edu)

For emergencies or safety concerns (24/7)

 Campus Security: (765) 361-6100. Email: [security@wabash.edu](mailto:security@wabash.edu)

## LOST & FOUND ITEM POLICY

It's easy for items to be misplaced during a busy week of camp. A lost and found station will be maintained in the dorm lobby, and staff will help students check for missing items daily. At the end of camp, unclaimed belongings will be held in the camp office for two weeks. Families may contact the office to arrange pickup or shipping at their own expense. We encourage labeling all items especially clothing, water bottles, and personal belongings to prevent mix-ups.

# Wabash.

## Summer Programs

### Packing List

#### Clothing

- Casual attire (t-shirts, jeans, shorts)
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Athletic wear and sneakers for sports or physical activity
- Light jacket or sweatshirt
- Undergarments and socks for each day
- Swimwear
- Two polos and khaki shorts
- Closed-toed shoes and long pants (M2M campers need closed shoes for lab related activities)

#### Bedding and Linens

- Twin XL Bedding
- If flying to campus, a bedding kit will be provided for you
- Blanket is HIGHLY recommended for all students
- Towels for showering and swimming

#### Optional Items:

- Snacks and non-perishable food items
- Entertainment items (books, playing cards, etc)
- Spending money (encouraged for off campus trips)

#### Toiletries

- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Body wash and/or soap
- Brush or comb
- Deodorant!!
- Towel, wash cloth, etc.
- Shower shoes

#### Miscellaneous

- Reusable water bottle
- Backpack or tote for carrying essentials
- Notebook, pens, pencils
- Portable charger for electronic devices

#### If Flying to Summer Program

- State issued ID or Passport
- If you don't have a state issued ID be sure to have school ID with photo, Birth Certificate, and Social Security Card.
- Blanket to add to your bedding kit



# CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

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At Wabash Pre-College Programs, reflection is not just for students, it's part of how we grow as a team. Each year, we take time to learn what worked best, what could be stronger, and how to make the next summer even more impactful.

We gather feedback from multiple perspectives:

- students, through pre- and post-surveys to understand their experiences and takeaways.
- Peer mentors and staff, who share on-the-ground observations about activities, logistics, and community life.
- Program leaders, who review how camp goals connect with outcomes.

All of this feedback is carefully reviewed after camp and built directly into planning for the following year. This cycle creates a living “feedback loop” where every summer builds on the last.

Our reflection doesn't always stop when summer camps end. In some cases, we follow up with students months down the road to learn how they are using the knowledge, skills, and confidence they gained at camp in school, in their communities, and in their personal goals.

By treating feedback as part of the learning journey, we ensure that Wabash Summer Programs stay up to date with industry standards, meaningful, and continually evolving, just like the students who participate in them.



# QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

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We know that even after reading through this handbook, you might still have questions, and that's completely okay. Our team values open communication and is always glad to connect with families.

If you have any questions, feedback, or concerns before, during, or after camp, please don't hesitate to reach out. Whether it's about logistics, your student's experience, or how to stay connected with Wabash after the summer, we're here to help.

**General Inquiries: [summerprograms@wabash.edu](mailto:summerprograms@wabash.edu)**

We look forward to hearing from you and continuing this partnership in helping students grow, explore, and thrive.