

Dear Summer PAL 2024 Students,

Welcome to the Summer PAL 2024 program! We are thrilled to have you join us for an exciting and enriching three-week residential experience from July 14 to August 2. As you prepare to embark on this journey, we want to share some highlights and essential information to get you started on the right foot.

Program Highlights:

Our faculty are passionate about education and deeply care about your well-being. They foster a nurturing environment where you are seen and treated as whole individuals. This support empowers you to assume leadership roles, promoting a culture of responsibility, initiative, and belonging.

Our credentialed professors are more than just tutors; they are educators and mentors who provide comprehensive academic guidance and support. They are adaptable, catering to your unique needs and employing various techniques to facilitate effective learning experiences.

The courses you will be taking are credit-bearing and meet the required standards of accreditation, ensuring academic rigor and credibility. The PAL approach to course design and delivery emphasizes creativity and flexibility, making learning engaging and dynamic.

Our faculty and staff possess a diverse range of skills and personalities, allowing us to cater to the different profiles and needs of all our students. The customized curricula are tailored to meet your specific needs and diverse learning styles.

Exciting Activities and Experiences:

Summer PAL supports first-year college students in transitioning by cultivating new friendships, prompting reflection on resilience, and empowering you with goal-setting abilities, self-awareness of learning styles, and proficiency in utilizing technology. You will learn about informational literacy, concept mapping, library services, and the research process by examining social issues, politics, law, bias education, and more through the lens of social media.

Field trips will include exciting outings like a Red Sox game, a trip to Martha's Vineyard, and a day at Six Flags. On campus, the pool will be open, as well as our Esports Lounge. For those into hiking, we will have nightly hikes in Blue Hills.

A major theme explored throughout the program is resiliency. On Film Fridays, we will feature two thought-provoking films:

- The Social Network (2010): This film tells the story of the founding of Facebook, highlighting the challenges, betrayals, and triumphs of creating a social media empire.

- He Named Me Malala: This documentary provides an intimate look at the life of Malala Yousafzai, the young Pakistani girl who was shot by the Taliban for advocating for girls' education and who has since become a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest-ever Nobel Prize laureate.

Additionally, we will be reading **My Original Enthusiasm** by Lori Lubeski. This book explores themes of passion, perseverance, and the pursuit of one's dreams, aligning perfectly with our program's focus on resilience and personal growth. You can purchase a copy on Amazon for \$10. [Here is the link.](#)

Kick-Off BBQ and Orientation:

We invite you and your families to join us for the Kick-Off BBQ on move-in day, July 14, from 1:30-3:30 PM. This event is open to entire families and will be a great opportunity to meet fellow students, faculty, and staff. Graham, our beloved community service dog, will be there, eagerly waiting to meet you and your families.

Please remember to complete your orientation checklists on the portal and register for the July 15 orientation. This step is crucial to ensure you have all the necessary information and are fully prepared for the start of the program. Attached to this letter, you will find a checklist of things to bring to make your stay comfortable and enjoyable.

We can't wait to welcome you to Summer PAL 2024 and embark on this incredible journey together. Get ready for an unforgettable summer filled with learning, growth, and fun!

Warm regards,

Nicole
Coordinator of Summer PAL 2024