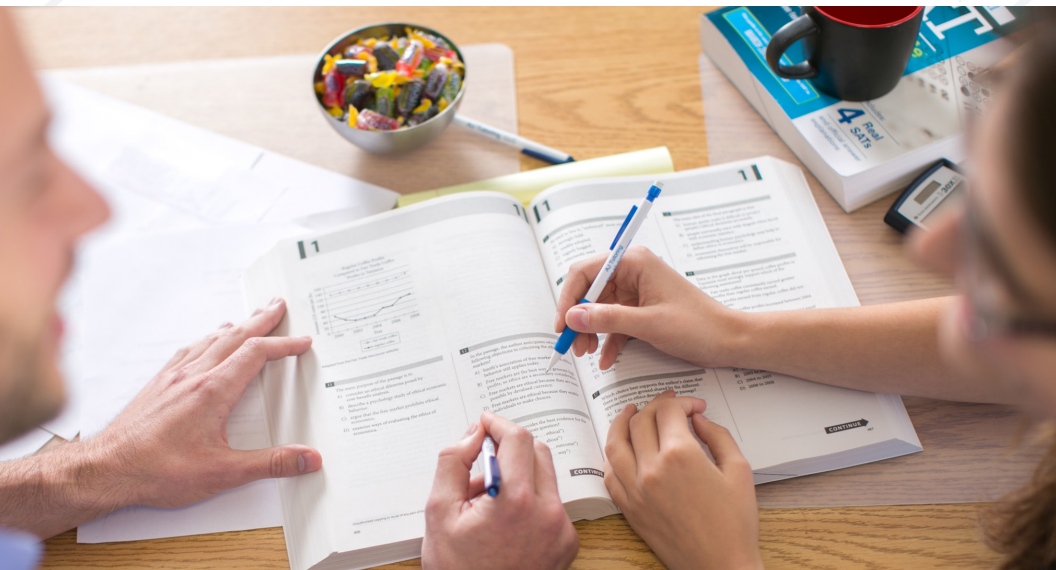# AJTutoring

Summer 2021 Course Catalog

Enroll Today!

(650) 331-3251 | (408) 345-5200 | (415) 419-8786
www.ajtutoring.com/summer
info@ajtutoring.com

Course Offerings

- Bridge courses to get students back on track after COVID-19 disruptions
- AP and honors primer courses
- Fun academic courses that go beyond the high school curriculum
- Test preparation (PSAT, SAT, ACT)
- For-credit, WASC-accredited courses

Summer is Here!

Struggling with disruptions caused by distance learning?

Falling behind in a subject or moving up a lane?

Getting ready for your first AP or honors course?

Struggling with test-taking skills?

Need a fun extra challenge in a favorite subject?

Let our team of teaching experts help you with 1-on-1 summer academic and test prep tutoring!

Our Summer Programs

The summer is a great time to get a jump-start on the upcoming school year or engage with academic material at a deeper level. We are excited to provide a variety of summer programs to meet your learning needs.

The ongoing situation with COVID-19 has been extremely disruptive to many students' educations. At AJ Tutoring, we specialize in delivering high-quality education that is tailored to a student's unique needs. We can help bridge between classes and set students up for success next fall by teaching and reviewing core content from this year's class and previewing upcoming material for the fall. For those who are ahead of the curve, we can help students demonstrate their mastery of a subject with for-credit classes or get ahead of next year's challenges.

Whether you're looking to get ahead on an upcoming class or dive deeper into a subject, we are happy to collaborate with you to create a program that works for you.

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For-Credit High School and AP Courses!

Along with our typical summer enrichment offerings, High Bluff Academy is proud to offer 1-on-1 and small-group WASC-accredited courses in select subjects at certain AJ locations and online! These courses, including APs, fulfill A-G requirements for high school graduation and college admission and are tailored to your student's needs.

The program offers convenience, accessibility, and an individually-tailored learning pace to support students from various backgrounds:

- Students looking to advance to a higher-level course.
- Students who perform better in the 1-on-1 tutoring environment due to non-standard schedules, learning differences, or other needs.
- Students who are trying to recover course credit.
- Students who are trying to finish a full semester of coursework over the summer.

For-credit courses are limited to select subjects and depend on whether your high school will accept outside courses for credit, but we're here to help you navigate the process.

For details, email forcredit@ajtutoring.com

ISEE, SSAT, & HSPT Prep:
Entrance Exams for High School & Middle School

Is your student applying to private middle or high schools? Use the summer to help your student prep for the ISEE, SSAT, or HSPT exam(s).

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: $160/hr

Recommended hours: 8-12

Goals: Improve your ISEE, HSPT, or SSAT score more efficiently.

Course Description

We meet with students for 8 to 12 sessions. As homework, students have 45-minute assignments about half the time and a full-length practice test the other half.

The program covers test-taking skills and content, including question interpretation, guessing strategy, time management, arithmetic skills, algebra concepts, geometric reasoning, reading comprehension, vocabulary, grammar, and essay writing.

We use our own proprietary materials that are updated annually to reflect current content on the test.

PSAT Test Prep

AJ Tutoring can help your student do better on the PSAT! Our flexible PSAT program helps students build test-taking confidence and develop a systematic approach to the test.

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: $160/hr

Recommended hours: 4.5–13.5

Goals: Improve your PSAT score and lay the groundwork for your SAT prep.

Course Description

We meet with students for either an introductory 3-session PSAT prep or a full 10-session PSAT prep. Each session is 90 minutes long, and for homework, students will have either a 90-minute assignment or a full PSAT practice test.

Our standard PSAT program covers test-taking strategies such as timing, guessing strategy, and question interpretation. Although not comprehensive, it gives students the most fundamental test-taking strategies so that they can treat the PSAT as a serious practice for the SAT.

Our full PSAT program provides students with a deep understanding of the content on the test, including algebra concepts, geometric reasoning, reading comprehension, and grammar.

SAT Test Prep

Our 1-on-1 SAT program is the most efficient and effective way to improve your SAT score. Simply put, our talented team delivers results!

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: $160/hr

Recommended hours: 10.5-15

Goals: Improve your SAT score more efficiently.

Course Description

We meet with students for 8-10 weekly sessions, each lasting 90 minutes. We assign students a mix of full-length practice tests and 90-minute assignments as homework.

The program covers test-taking skills and SAT content, including question interpretation, guessing strategy, time management, algebra concepts, geometric reasoning, reading comprehension, grammar, and essay writing.

We use our own proprietary materials that are updated annually to reflect the current content and teach the best strategies for the test.

ACT Test Prep

Do you feel that your standardized test scores don't reflect your performance in school? Let AJ Tutoring help you ace the ACT exam!

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: $160/hr

Recommended hours: 4.5–13.5

Goals: Improve your ACT score more efficiently.

Course Description

We meet with students for 8–10 sessions, each lasting 90 minutes. Homework includes a mix of full-length practice tests and 90-minute assignments.

The program covers test-taking skills and ACT content, including question interpretation, guessing strategy, time management, algebra concepts, geometric reasoning, reading comprehension, grammar, and essay writing. We use our own proprietary materials that are updated annually to reflect the current content and teach the best strategies for the test.

SAT/ACT Hybrid Program:

The content tested on the SAT and ACT is similar. Many students take both tests, and our SAT/ACT hybrid program is the most efficient and effective way to comprehensively prepare for both exams.

After students complete our comprehensive SAT tutoring program, they can continue with our three or four session ACT hybrid preparation. The ACT hybrid course takes the content students mastered in their SAT preparation and teaches them how to apply it to the different format of the ACT. The ACT hybrid tutoring starts with teaching students the correct approach to the science section, for which there is no equivalent on the SAT; gets them comfortable with the English section, which tests the same grammar rules as the SAT in a different format; and helps students adjust to the accelerated timing of the ACT.

GRE/GMAT Test Prep

Applying to graduate school or an MBA program? Get an edge on the GRE or GMAT!

Locations: Los Gatos, Los Altos, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Mateo, Lafayette, Online

Cost: $200/hr

Recommended hours: 12–15

Goals: Improve your GRE or GMAT score more efficiently.

Course Description

Many graduate programs require strong scores on the GRE or GMAT for acceptance. AJ Tutoring's 1-on-1 GRE and GMAT tutoring class covers test-taking skills and content, including question interpretation, strategies for navigating the computer interface, time management, reading comprehension, quantitative comparison (GRE) or data sufficiency techniques (GMAT), and essay writing.

We use current GRE and GMAT materials that reflect the current content and teach the best strategies for the test.

We meet with students for 8–10 weekly sessions, each lasting 90 minutes. Homework includes a mix of full-length practice tests and 90-minute assignments.

Math Boot Camp: Transitioning to Middle School

Students can forget a lot over summer break! Help your student keep math skills fresh with a math boot camp.

Locations: Menlo Park*

Cost: $350

Schedule: 6 hours of class time and 30 minutes of 1-on-1 instruction

Goals:

- Strengthen mechanics and foundations (multiplication, word problems with whole numbers, place value and decimals)
- Review 5th grade (intro to algebra, fractions and ratios, order of operations. coordinate grid)
- Preview 6th grade (exponents, series and functions, more word problems)

Course Description

The transition to middle school can be daunting, and taking two months off math adds to the pressure of starting a new school. Missing the last few months of school will make this transition even harder. This is particularly true for students who are starting at a private middle school! This group class is designed to make the transition from summer to middle school a little more comfortable. Students can expect to solidify foundations, review some of the trickier math topics from 5th grade, and preview core concepts from 6th grade.

For three weeks, students will meet for two one-hour group classes and one individual session with the instructor. The one-on-one sessions will either reinforce or expand upon topics from the week, depending on each individual student's needs. Homework and assessments between classes will be assigned.

* Classes might switch to an online setting depending on the circumstances.

Math Boot Camp: Transitioning to High School

Students can forget a lot over summer break! Help your student keep math skills fresh with a math boot camp.

Locations: Menlo Park*

Cost: $450

Schedule: 9 hours of class time and 30 minutes of 1-on-1 instruction

Goals:

- Strengthen mechanics and foundations (combining like terms, adding vs multiplying terms, exponent rules, distribution, fractions, negative numbers)
- Review 8th grade (solving for variables, manipulating expressions, functions, graphing and $y = mx + b$)
- Preview algebra (systems of equations, inequalities, quadratics)

Course Description

The transition to high school can be daunting, and taking two months off math adds to the pressure of starting a new school. Missing the last few months of school will make this transition even harder. This group course targeted at rising 8th graders in advanced math or rising 9th graders entering algebra 1. We will spend time emphasizing foundations and mechanics, reviewing pre-algebra, and previewing core concepts from algebra 1.

Students will meet twice per week as a group for three 90-minute classes, and once per week one-on-one with the instructor for an hour. The one-on-one sessions will either reinforce or expand upon topics from the week, depending on each individual student's needs. Homework and assessments between classes will be assigned.

* Classes might switch to an online setting depending on the circumstances.

Summer Computer Science Java Bootcamp

Programming is a collaborative undertaking, so this 4-week course will help students learn Java in groups, pairs, and on their own, all while working toward and completing a project that is uniquely theirs.

Locations: Menlo Park*

Cost: $1400

Hours: 24 hours of class time, 6 hours of 1-on-1 instruction

Goals:

- Prepare students to succeed in their upcoming AP computer science course in a 1-on-1 setting
- Introduce and shore up fundamental concepts in Java
- Instill an understanding of the upcoming year's curriculum in the context of real-world applications

Course Description

This 4-week course will be comprised of a mix of project-based applications of Java and theoretical concepts critical to understanding the first semester of AP Computer Science. Starting with the core components of Java, students will explore coding and theory in an environment modeled after the best coding bootcamps. Students will learn to problem solve and write code in groups, pairs and on their own. Each week, they'll build on the lessons from the week before to develop their very own 2D game. Students will end the summer with a portfolio-ready application, as well as the confidence needed to succeed in their AP Computer Science classes.

Beginners and intermediate students welcome!

* Classes might switch to an online setting depending on the circumstances.

Math Primers

Gain an edge in math knowledge over the summer! Our summer math primers are designed to build skills and confidence in preparation for next school year.

Math classes in school expect students to have significant prior knowledge going into each course to successfully build understanding and practice problem-solving skill. Each of our summer math primers is designed to get students ready to ace their upcoming course by reviewing important prerequisites, introducing fundamental concepts, and instilling an understanding of each class's relevance to real-world applications.

Each 1-on-1 course is taught by an experienced math tutor with extensive knowledge of local high school math courses. All math tutors are available for online tutoring while under shelter-in-place.

Offered Math Primers

- Geometry Primer
- Algebra 2/Trigonometry Primer
- Trigonometry/Precalculus Primer
- Intro to Analysis & Calculus Primer
- AP Calculus AB/BC Primer
- AP Statistics Primer
- Analysis Honors Primer

Intro to Linear Algebra

How do computers encrypt information? How do they compress images in files? How can we compute linear regressions in statistics? Linear algebra shows the way...

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Lafayette, Online

Cost: $100–$130/hr

Recommended hours: 12

Goals:

- Explore the meaning and significance of "linear" transformations
- Learn more about matrices and use them to solve equations containing many variables
- Look at applications of matrices to real-world problems

Course Description

Many students encounter matrices somewhere over the course of their algebra 2 or precalculus classes. Unfortunately, these encounters are often brief, have little context, and emphasize rote use of techniques.

Linear algebra is heavily used in many fields, including statistics, cryptography, economics, and throughout the sciences. We will delve into the basic theory behind these techniques and examine their real-world applications.

Mathematics for AMC

Ever wanted an exciting challenge in mathematics? This course will prepare students for the AMC 8 or AMC 10 competition exam, covering topics across a broad range of approachable mathematics.

Locations: Saratoga, Los Gatos, Menlo Park, Online

Cost: $160-200/hr

Recommended hours: 15

Goals:

- Develop basic rules of geometry and triangles
- Apply rules of algebra in various ways
- Apply basic number theory including remainder investigation and counting rules including permutations/combinations/multiplication rules of counting
- Learn and apply basic probability rules

Course Description

This course will explore various mathematical challenge problems that may never be explored in normal school math classes. We'll develop and apply basic rules of geometry, algebra, counting, and number theory. With these tools we can solve various types of problems, and set ourselves up to be able to take AMC exams to compete with other students across the country in mathematical challenges!

Science Primers

Are you feeling unprepared for your upcoming science course? Let AJ Tutoring give you an edge this summer!

Our summer science primers are designed to provide students with a solid foundation from which to approach their college-level AP coursework. In session, students will review the science concepts they learned in previous years and then look ahead to the major concepts covered in AP curricula. Students will apply these ideas to conceptual questions and practice problems to solidify their understanding, all while familiarizing students with the resources they'll use in class.

Each 1-on-1 course is taught by an experienced science tutor with extensive knowledge of AP science courses. All science tutors are available for online tutoring while under shelter-in-place orders.

Offered Science Primers

- AP Biology Primer
- AP Physics 1, 2, or C Primer
- AP Chemistry Primer
- AP Environmental Science Primer

Intro to Cell Physiology

If your student completed AP Biology and thought, "I wish I could learn more about cellular physiology before studying it in college!" then this is the course for you! Cells are the building blocks of the human body, so getting a solid foundation for how cells function is critical to success in college physiology courses.

Locations: San Mateo, Burlingame, Online

Cost: $110/hr

Recommended hours: 6

Goals:

- Understand the layout of a cellular membrane
- Identify the differences between prokaryotic and Eukaryota cells
- Learn more about the important organelles within the cells
- Survey the ways cells differentiate
- Introduce the particular cells within specific systems

Course Description

This course is critical for students looking to get ahead in understanding the fundamentals of biology in order to build a solid foundation going into college. Most AP Biology does not focus as much on the importance of understanding the cellular level of the body and how intricate it is. Throughout this course we will connect the importance of several cells with their functions and how that allows us to go about our days normally.

Intro to Entomology

Do you have a fascination with the creepy, crawly animals that inhabit our planet? Have you ever wanted to know more about the amazing world of insects? Come learn about the evolution, behavior, and ecology of one of the most important groups of organisms on Earth.

Locations: Menlo Park, Online

Cost: $110/hr

Recommended hours: 4-7

Goals:

- Learn techniques for collecting and identifying insects
- Gain an understanding of the natural history of important insect groups
- Become familiar with some of the current research being done on these interesting creatures

Course Description

Since these organisms accout for around 80% of known animal species, the current era might best be described as the Age of Insects. In this course we will delve into the fascinating world of insects, exploring such topics as collection techniques, systematics, anatomy, physiology, behavior, and evolution. Students will learn about ecologically and economically important species, gaining insight into insects that play a surprisingly large role in our lives. Students will have the opportunity to make an insect collection and learn to use dichotomous keys to identify specimens. Students will demonstrate their knowledge at the end of the course by giving a 10-minute research presentation on their favorite insect.

Engineering Mechanics

Are you interested in mechanical, aerospace, civil, or architectural engineering? Get a taste of college-level vector mechanics!

Locations: Palo Alto, Online

Cost: $110/hr

Recommended hours: 6-30

Goals:

- Preview a selection of core classes for engineering majors
- Apply concepts from theoretical math and physics classes to more practical problems
- Gain intuition about problem solving and the design of machines and mechanical structures

Course Description

This course is a survey of topics from engineering courses such as statics, dynamics, and mechanics of materials. It's a great fit for someone considering an engineering major! Topics fall into three major categories: statics, dynamics, and mechanics of materials (see full descriptions on AJ's website). The course is customizable and can explore as many or as few of these topics as desired. What is actually covered is tailored to what the student is interested in and to background in math and physics.

Pre-requisites:
- Precalculus or above (content can be adjusted to student's math level)
- Physics or above (content can be adjusted to student's physics level)

Foreign Languages Primers

Worried about your language skills? AJ Tutoring can help build fluency in a second language with our selection of foreign language primers!

Learning a foreign language for an hour a day, five days a week is difficult enough; adding a two-month break to a student's language acquisition makes it even tougher. Our foreign language tutoring courses are designed to keep students practicing second lanuage acquisition over the summer by building fluency at all four levels: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

Each 1-on-1 course is taught by an experienced foreign language tutor with extensive knowledge of the language in question. All foreign language tutors are available for online tutoring while under shelter-in-place orders.

Offered Foreign Languages Primers

- Spanish Grammar & Conversation
- French Grammar & Conversation
- Intro to Latin
- Intro to Portuguese

Social Studies Primers

Worried about the hours of reading and writing homework you will face in an AP social studies course? Let AJ Tutoring help you get a boost over the summer!

Our AP social studies primer courses are designed to give students the tools they need to be truly successful throughout the year. We'll help students work through summer reading while building note-taking, memorization, and historical critical thinking skills, all while giving them the opportunity to focus on the historical moments they find most interesting.

Offered Social Studies Primers

- AP US History Primer
- AP World History: Modern Primer
- AP European History Primer
- AP US Government Primer
- AP Psychology Primer

Public Speaking

Do you freeze up when you speak in front of the class? Or would you like more poise when put on the spot? Gain confidence for public speaking!

Locations: Los Gatos, Los Altos, Online

Cost: $110–$120/hr

Recommended hours: 5–10

Goals:

- Learn a process for outlining, writing, and practicing speeches
- Identify and address individual speaking issues
- Utilize volume, tone, rhythm, and gesture to create emphasis
- Explore and become familiar with different visual aids
- Increase confidence in public speaking and feel prepared for any group or individual presentations

Course Description

In this confidence-building course, students will learn fundamental techniques for prepared and impromptu public speaking. Students will learn how to write and structure a speech as well as how to deliver it in a confident, clear, and engaging way.

Public speaking is a very valuable job skill which employers find in short supply. While many colleges require public speaking courses, high school students often lack an opportunity to develop their skills. This course focuses on developing technique through continual practice. While the class will sample a few different forms of public speaking, the primary aim is to give students an introduction to fundamentals that can apply to any setting. Students will practice short-form speeches each lesson while building towards a long-form speech to be delivered at the end of the course.

A History of Magic

Take a tour of magical culture across time and space and learn the secrets of social science along the way!

Locations: Menlo Park, Woodside, Online

Cost: $110/hr

Recommended hours: 8

Goals:

- Understand the basics of anthropology and historiography
- Trace the historical development of science and modern technology from magic
- Demystify modern persistence of magical practice and belief
- Apply critical thinking skills to popular conspiracy theories

Course Description

Though older than writing, much ink has been spilled to characterize the practice of magic as unscientific and uneducated. And yet, magic has been practiced by every society, developing into scientific inquiry all over the world. While prior historical perspectives have classified magical thinking as a defunct stage of human development, modern social science observes that magic persists in human culture. This course will study history through the lens of magical practice, studying ancient beliefs and the time-enduring practices that led to modern astronomy, rocket engineering, chemistry, theater, and literature. Students will also practice critical thinking skills while studying historical witch-hunting paranoia and modern conspiracy theories. This class introduces anthropology and historiography while making them fun and wondrous.

LGBTQ+ History

From the Stone Age to Stonewall and well into today, this course will cover the history of the LGBTQ+ community. Learn the story of its diverse past and the challenges that it is overcoming today.

Locations: Menlo Park, Online

Cost: $110/hr

Recommended hours: 12

Goals:

- Establish the historical background of queer and trans people
- Explore the sociopolitical atmosphere throughout history surrounding LGBTQ+ people and its impact
- Learn about issues that LGBTQ+ people face in law and society
- Receive a well-rounded account of LGBTQ+ history, allowing students to navigate these issues in an informed manner

Course Description

LGBTQ+ History, as a course, serves to recognize gender and sexual diversity throughout human history from the ancient world, Industrial Revolution, and modern day, while also drawing parallels between the past and modern day.

The ancient history segment of the course addresses the role of gender and sexuality in Western and Eastern Civilizations, as well as the Americas. The objective of covering LGBTQ+ people in ancient history is to challenge the notion that humanity, by tradition, has been completely heteronormative and binary.

This course will also discuss LGBTQ+ people of the Industrial Revolution and modern day. Subjects covered include the impact Industrialization, Colonialism, and American Expansionism had on gender and sexual expression throughout the world. We also discuss the effect that modern innovations, such as the internet and social media, have had on our community. Students will learn about recent legislation, court rulings, and actions taken by the UN that have an impact on the future of the LGBTQ+ community. Modern issues we will address include *Obergefell v. Hodges*, North Carolina HB1, religious freedom laws, international travel, HIV/AIDS, and healthcare inequality.

English Primers

Whether you're just beginning to crack open your high school reading list or you're ready to write the greatest essay your AP teacher has ever seen, you can improve your reading, writing, and analysis skills with one of our English primer courses!

These 1-on-1 classes are designed for students who are looking to get a leg up on their English classes by practicing fundamental skills that will help them excel in the fall. All of our English primers focus on building reading comprehension and writing skill concurrently, as each informs the other. Students are encouraged to bring their own interests to these courses so that instructors can customize their approach and help students better enjoy the written world.

Offered Humanities Primers

- AP English Language & Composition Primer
- AP English Literature & Composition Primer
- Reading Comprehension Skill Building
- Summer Reading Round-Up

Creative Writing: Short Fiction or Poetry

Do you enjoy writing fiction or poetry in your spare time but wonder where to go from there? Come hone your writing under the guidance of an experienced creative writing instructor and prepare a portfolio of works for self-publication and submission

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: $100-$120/hr

Recommended hours: 9-12

Goals:

- Focus on writing and development of short fiction or poems
- Encourage and develop the work of aspiring writers while they formalize their ideas and voice
- Prepare a personal portfolio of writing for self-publishing and submission to contests or student journals

Course Description

This 1-on-1 class is designed for highly motivated students interested in either fiction or poetry writing and who are motivated to write several high-quality pieces. The goal of the course will be to finalize students' writing for a personal portfolio that will be self-published and that can be submitted to to contests or student journals, such as Scholastic, Bennington Young Writers, and the Middlebury Breadloaf Program. While students are encouraged to begin the class with some ideas for topics they'd like to write about, their personal tutor will guide them through the brainstorming, writing, and revising process.

The class will be fast-paced and will involve reading assorted short stories or poems. These readings will serve as models and inspirations for students' own projects. Students are encouraged to begin the class with some ideas for topics they'd like to write about. Homework will be assigned and will consist of reading 1-2 stories or poems between each session and writing or editing original work.

Exit, Pursued by Bear: Shakespeare in Action

Is Shakespeare all Greek to you? Do you ever wonder wherefore Romeo art? Fear not and discover the secrets to unraveling literature's greatest mind!

Locations: Los Gatos, Online

Cost: $100/hr

Recommended hours: 9

Goals:

- Explore Shakespeare's plays from the perspective of performance
- Understand how dialogue informs staging and props
- Develop analytical and writing skills

Course Description

Shakespeare was a prolific writer and one of the most influential poets and playwrights to ever live. But his works were intended for everyday entertainment, not just scholarly interpretation. Today's students find themselves expected to read, analyze, and write about Shakespeare's works, but are not taught a constructive approach to understanding them. Over ninety percent of the text in Shakespeare's plays is pure dialogue. In order to truly grasp the most from each of his creations, it is first necessary to see and understand them as Shakespeare would have presented them.

This course will address how to read and interpret Shakespeare not only as a literary work, but as a play performed for an audience. Students will read *Othello* and *The Tempest* and learn how to use dialogue to inform their decisions about character, staging, and props. They will prepare scenes for performance and evaluate how performance improves their understanding of the texts. Students will also develop their writing skills through analytical writing assignments. At the conclusion of the course, students will record a performance of a soliloquy of their choosing and write a full analytical essay.

Intro to Classics & College Writing

Want to learn the real history behind Gladiator, Troy, *and* 300*? Gain all this knowledge as well as the writing, research, and argumentative skills to succeed in college-level humanity courses by taking this course!*

Locations: San Jose, Los Gatos, Online

Cost: $110/hr

Recommended hours: 9-12

Goals:

- Learn how to read and comprehend dense material
- Understand how to write a college-level argumentative paper
- Write weekly responses to questions pertaining to chosen texts
- Compose a college-level paper pertaining to classical text(s)
- Gain an understanding of the societies of the Ancient World and how they still influence our lives today

Course Description

The transition from high school to college-level writing is one that nearly every college freshman finds challenging. Whether or not students plan on majoring in the humanities, they will inevitably take a course that requires advanced reading and writing skills. This summer course is designed to bridge the gap between college and high school writing and help students gain exposure to the most influential works of literature in human history.

Students will choose two works from the Greco-Roman time period to read, discuss, and write about over the course of the summer. Short one- or two-paragraph responses to discussion questions will be assigned each week. At the end of the course, students will submit a 4-6 page argumentative paper about one of the works they read over the summer. Detailed constructive feedback will be provided throughout our odyssey together!

Science Fiction: Distinctly Alien & Oddly Familiar

Have you ever asked what aspects truly define science fiction? Have you ever asked what makes the genre particularly special? Engross yourself in the worlds, times, and ideas of science fiction!

Locations: Menlo Park, Online

Cost: $110/hr

Recommended Hours: 9-12

Goals:

- Understand and appreciate the literary and media genre that is science fiction
- Explore the complex ideas discussed in a variety of science fiction narratives
- Enhance reading comprehension and analytical skills

Course Description

"Let us think the unthinkable, let us do the undoable, let us prepare to grapple with the ineffable itself..."

From the first shaping of stone to planets unknown, from "a long time ago" to the worlds of tomorrow, from resurrection of the dead to robots in our stead, science fiction is as widely varied as it is full of depth. In this course, students will learn the defining aspects of science fiction and its various sub-genres. They will delve into a variety of different short stories (and potentially movies) that investigate substantial—sometimes existential—ideas and notions. They will identify how many of these ideas are designed to reflect and respond to the problems authors noted in their own times by exploring the societal context of the works. Along the way, students will develop a greater appreciation for a genre which seeks, with some inventive thinking, to "help readers explore their world, their society, [and] their [lives]." This course will use the exploration of science fiction as a foundation on which to develop and hone students' reading comprehension, critical thinking, and analytical skills through discussion and writing assignments.

English for the STEM Fields

Do you want to be a doctor? Maybe a software engineer or a scientist? Do you think that English class ends in high school? Learn how to use writing to succeed in STEM majors and a competitive tech job market!

Locations: Menlo Park, Online

Cost: $130/hr

Recommended Hours: 9-10.5

Goals:

- Learn different technical forms of writing (APA, Chicago)
- Develop the basics of grant notation and drafting
- Develop the basics of research presentation/IRB drafting
- Develop the basics of quantitative data presentation in draft form

Course Description

English for the STEM Fields is designed to introduce students to the types of writing and rhetoric that will give them an edge in the competitive worlds of science and technology! Every technical field is presented with challenges that will require a budding physician, engineer, or scientist to pull out those English skills and write again. Whether it is a long-form research proposal for a biochemical lab, a technical presentation to a software startup, or a grant proposal for a medical department, Writing and Rhetoric play an integral part in every STEM field.

This course will help young scholars who might think that they "just don't need English anymore" and prepare STEM students for the writing rigors of their future fields. Students will learn technical writing structures such as American Psychological Association (APA) and Chicago literary notations used for scientific and research texts. Additionally, students will learn how to put together basic research proposal structures, grant proposals for medical/technical fields, and quantitative presentation methods for displaying computer science and engineering data in an approachable manner.

AP Computer Science Primer

AP Computer Science can include students with a wide range of coding experience. Let AJ Tutoring's personalized summer AP Computer Science primer help you level the playing field next year!

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: $100–$120/hr

Recommended hours: 9–12

Goals:

- Prepare students to succeed in their upcoming AP Computer Science course in a 1-on-1 setting
- Introduce and shore up fundamental concepts in Java
- Instill an understanding of the upcoming year's curriculum in the context of real-world applications

Course Description

This customized class is designed to get students ready to ace their upcoming AP Computer Science course. It focuses on official AP topics such as Program Implementation (writing a program), Program Analysis (debugging programs), Standard Data Structures, Standard Operations and Algorithms, Object-Oriented Program Design, and Computing in Context.

This course will introduce initially intimidating programming ideas at a comfortable personalized pace to help your student succeed in AP Computer Science.

Program Your Own Game

How many times have you seen a game like Flappy Bird and said, "That's so simple, anyone could make it!"? Now you can! In this course, you'll build your very own computer game using popular programming languages such as Java, Python, Scratch, or Unity.

Locations: Los Altos, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Online

Cost: $110/hr

Recommended hours: 6–12

Goals:

- Engage with a programming language
- Learn how to structure a game engine
- Develop good debugging practices
- Brag about your game to friends!

Course Description

People love video games. Some people end up wanting to build them, but are not quite sure where to start!

We will start with an exploration of a programming language through building basic game mechanics. Later, we will focus on coding best practices and work toward a higher-level approach through advanced code organization, good debugging habits, and breaking code into simple and meaningful chunks.

This course is geared toward beginners with very little knowledge of programming, or intermediate students who already have a basic understanding of programming concepts (equivalent to a one-year high school object-oriented programming class). The only main requirement is a passion for video games!

AP Music Theory Crash Course

Love singing but hate theory? Love theory but afraid of sight-singing? If you're looking to take AP Music Theory this year, then this is the summer course for you!

Locations: Los Gatos, Online

Cost: $120/hr

Recommended hours: 15–20

Goals:

- Gain confidence sight-singing
- Train your ear and improve your musicianship with melodic, rhythmic, and harmonic dictation
- Learn scales, key signatures, clefs, modes, and more!
- Gain a new appreciation for all the music you already listen to and the music you already make!

Course Description

Music theory can be one of the most difficult AP tests. Passing this exam requires not only a solid knowledge of melodies, harmonies, and rhythms, but also the ability to demonstrate this knowledge in ways that music performers are seldom—if ever—asked to do.

We will help our budding young musician hone their skills, transforming their already existing knowledge into something they will be able to both write and sing.

A student entering AP Music Theory and this summer course should already have at least 3 years of music performance experience and know how to read notes from one clef.

Intro to Digital Photography

Want to take better pictures? Want to learn some photography tricks? You're just a click away!

Locations: Los Altos, Mountain View, Online

Cost: $110/hr

Recommended hours: 9–12

Goals:

- Learn the basics of a digital SLR (DSLR) camera
- Understand various camera controls and how they impact the composition of the image
- Create a photography portfolio

Course Description

In this course, we will explore digital photography. We will start with the basics such as understanding the history of photography and the evolution of the camera and take a deeper dive into the technical elements of digital SLR (DSLR) photography. We will discuss the various parts and controls on the camera and how they influence the final picture, and we'll focus on the elements of image exposure and the effect of these elements on composition. Through diving into various forms of photography, including nature and wildlife photography, portrait photography, food photography, long exposure, and creative photography, we will discuss how the camera controls can be creatively manipulated to produce such images. At the end of this course, students should be able to create a portfolio of their photography which exhibits their artistic style.

Virtual Art: How to Self-Teach with Programs

Virtual art is swiftly becoming popular, and with so many different professional artists out there using different applications, it's hard to figure out what is best. We'll discuss what the options are, as well as pros and cons to each program. We'll also try them out (most programs have free trials) to see which you prefer!

Locations: Los Altos, In-Home, Online

Cost: $110/hr

Recommended hours: 4-8

Goals:

- Learn how to self-teach
- Make informed decisions about virtual art software
- Explore an art software's capabilities
- Gain experience with programs that professionals use
- Explore various hardware options

Course Description

As technology opens more doors, many artists are starting to turn to virtual platforms. Programs are capable of simulating so many various types of art, but for many physical artists (painters, for example), it's difficult to get started. Many applications have some tutorials for specific questions, but not many have full tutorials on how the program works as a whole! We'll walk through how to search for applications that are compatible not only to the computer, but to each student and their style. If your student is new to the idea of virtual art, we can also discuss hardware and go through the same process of finding what's best for the art style they have!

Study Skills Basics

Time management, organization, and note-taking are valuable habits that pertain to all aspects of life. Why not get started early?

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: $100–$120/hr

Recommended hours: 9–13.5

Goals:

- Build lasting organizational and time-management practices
- Cultivate test-taking strategies
- Train students to better retain what they read

Course Description

Studying is an individualized process. Some people prefer the pressure of the pre-test cram, while others need small spurts of studying over the course of a month. AJ's study skills class will improve your study skills by giving tools and approaches that work best. This course will furnish students with systematic study strategies that will improve academic performance and that will be useful for the rest of their lives. Our program focuses on note-taking from both textbooks and lectures, test preparation techniques, outlining, reading retention strategies, and stress management skills.

We will structure study skills instruction around a class students will take next year at school. Study skills will be taught in the context of that course, so students will learn academic content while improving study skills. For example, if a student will be taking US History next year, we will teach reading comprehension and note-taking skills from the history textbook and the tutor's lectures, essay outlining and organization, and time-management and test-preparation techniques geared towards history exams. Improving study skills is helpful for all age levels but especially for students transitioning from middle school to high school or from high school to college.

Middle School Skills

Middle school is when students build the foundations for the skills that they use for every class for the rest of their career. Too often, however, these skills aren't explicitly taught, and students are left to blindly figure out what to do. This course will develop effective individual study strategies based on students' specific learning styles, past challenges, and current needs.

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: $100–$110/hr

Recommended hours: 13.5–15

Goals:

- Develop organizational and long-term planning skills
- Learn how to prepare for tests
- Preview middle school curriculum

Course Description

This course is designed for rising 6th and 7th graders. Our program focuses on organization, planning, test preparation, and time management in order to foster study habits that are both effective and efficient. Common topics include learning the difference between reading for literature and reading for science, predicting test questions, and math problem solving strategies.

Since study skills are best taught in the context of content, we structure courses around the middle school curriculum, previewing new material even as we build effective study tools.

Students will have short homework assignments between sessions to help them build at home study skills. These may include short math sets, short readings, and desk and backpack cleaning. In addition, students will need a binder and a planner.

How to Succeed in High School

High school can be a difficult experience: keeping up with all the classwork and managing teenage life is a challenge. This class is designed for students who are rising freshmen, sophomores, or juniors and want to learn skills that will help them feel confident and ready to excel in high school.

Locations: San Jose, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, San Mateo, Burlingame, Lafayette, Online

Cost: $100–$110/hr

Recommended hours: 5

Goals:

- Learn how to get organized and manage time
- Become an active learner
- Develop strong study skills for tests
- Strengthen writing skills

Course Description

Transitioning to high school is a major adjustment. When students have a strong foundation in study skills and content knowledge this transition becomes easier.

In this summer course, we explore seven major topics to help you gracefully transition to high school: how to get organized, how to manage time, how to be an active learner, how to study for tests, how to be a strong writer, how to build reading skills, and how to solve problems.

We draw on material from a variety of sources and teach these skills in the context of preparing for and previewing the material you'll encounter in your classes. Students will be assigned projects, reading assignments, and writing assignments to practice these skills at home.

Master the Resume & Interview

Do you have a dream job or summer internship? Structuring your resume and navigating the interview process can be daunting the first or second (or even 50th) time, but it doesn't have to be as scary as it seems.

Locations: Menlo Park, Online

Cost: $130/hr

Recommended hours: 7–9

Goals:

- Build a basic resume for summer internships, part-time jobs, and other opportunities
- Start and explore LinkedIn as a good resource
- Learn tips and tricks for a great interview
- Succeed at the mock interview for a variety of behavioral questions (learn the do's and dont's of interview behavior)

Course Description

Starting the job hunt process can be intimidating and confusing—it's hard to know where to start and whether or not you're doing things right. This course provides structure, and most importantly, a starting point for the ambitious young student hoping to gain some work experience.

Whether your student wants to get a part-time job or start looking for those resume-boosting internships, they can learn to master resume writing, interview skills, and professional etiquette in a fun and interactive class. Your student will write and edit their resumes, build their LinkedIn profiles, and rehearse interview strategies. Kick start their confidence now!

AJ Tutoring