

Washington University's College Prep Program welcomes eighth cohort

Washington University in St. Louis has admitted 49 rising high school sophomores to its innovative [College Prep Program](#), a multiyear initiative that prepares high-achieving students with limited financial resources for college.

The students represent 31 public, private and charter schools from across the region. As College Prep scholars, they will spend three summers studying in university laboratories and studios, attending classes led by university faculty and learning the skills needed to thrive in college. Throughout the academic year, students will reconnect to attend university cultural events and meet with university experts to navigate the college application process.

Typically, scholars live in university residence halls. However, the residential component of the program has been canceled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is the eighth cohort of the College Prep Program. Launched in 2014, the program recently celebrated the graduation of Cohort 5. Graduates were accepted into colleges across the U.S. including Yale, Georgetown, University of Chicago and Harvard universities. Five Cohort 5 scholars will attend Washington University through the WashU Pledge, which provides a free Washington University education to admitted students from Missouri and southern Illinois whose family income is \$75,000 or less.

Courtney Brewster, director of the College Prep Program, said the incoming cohort is both talented and determined.

"The pandemic upended the lives and educations of these students, yet they distinguished themselves through their hard work," Brewster said. "We are proud to welcome them to College Prep Program and help them achieve their goals."

Hazelwood East High School

Diamond Conner

Hazelwood West High School

Trey Fields

Brian Gachugu

Penda Diop