Liberal Arts in Silicon Valley

Adjacent Academies Summer 2020 Program

ADJACENT ACADEMIES

Learn in-demand technology skills

Network and explore your future career

Immerse yourself in the world's tech-hub

Overview

Adjacent Academies equips and empowers *non-technical undergraduate students* to have a disproportionate impact for good in an increasingly tech-immersed world. Through Adjacent, students augment their academic experience with vital technical and interpersonal skills, present a resume-building project for a company, gain connections to an array of professionals -- all for undergraduate college credit via Davidson College. Our goal is to enable everyone -- particularly students from backgrounds typically under-represented in tech -- to access growing technical and hybrid jobs and bring the cultural and critical thinking of the Liberal Arts to those industries.

Who is eligible?

Students with *no* background in tech are strongly encouraged to apply. No prior experience or course prerequisites necessary. Adjacent caters to students with a wide scope of academic interests and aims to combine that intellectual curiosity with the skills to build tools to further learning and increase impact. Selection is competitive as a limited number of spots are available.

What's Included

- 4 weeks in San Francisco
- Class 9-6p, Mon-Fri
- 1 Course Credit: Digital Studies 345 - *Intro to Web Design & Programming*
- Dorm-style living
- Meal Plan
- 2-3 Office Visits
- 2 Networking Events
- 2-3 Portfolio Projects

Program Details

Summer Session 1	Summer Session 2
June 1 – 26, 2020	**July 6 – 31, 2020**
Program Tuition: $6,000	Program Tuition: $6,000
Meals & Board: $2,250	Meals & Board: $2,250

Application Deadlines

Early Admission Application: **March 1 2020**

Apply early for scholarship preference and $100 off

Application Deadline: **April 1 2020**

Admissions Process

- Short written application
- 30 minute interview

Limited partial scholarships available

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Curriculum

This course introduces students with no technical background to advanced interface design and programming concepts for creating dynamic internet applications for both practical and expressive ends. Students will be challenged to not only conceptualize but execute culturally-relevant web-based applications using professional tools to create a foundational understanding of technology. Additionally, this course isn't all about learning to design and program. We'll also explore, comment on, critique, or celebrate the impact of tech via the lens of justice, ethics, and community.

Learning Outcomes

Technical Skills:

- **Demonstrate how computers encode and manipulate different types of data** (numbers, text, images, audio)
- **Build basic web applications** using modern technologies including JavaScript, HTML/CSS.
- **Identify and articulate the design tradeoffs** in the tools they use throughout the course as well as the code they and their fellow students write
- **Identify and discuss computational issues** as they intersect with other fields (e.g., privacy, economics)

Impact Skills:

- **Strengthen impact skills:** build interpersonal, team management, presentation, and project management skills through highly collaborative project-based work
- **Build understanding of the tech industry:** Learn more about the norms, values, lingo, and job opportunities in the tech industry
- **Increase the range of opportunities available**: Figure out what tech industry roles might be a good fit and develop the skills to confidently and effectively land such opportunities through networking and interviewing

A Typical Week

This is not a traditional classroom experience. Learning at Adjacent mirrors the workplace and is therefore not lecture-based — students will learn by doing alongside peers, with the support of experienced technologists and educators, and with interaction and feedback from mentors and employees in diverse tech roles.

	Area of Design	DIG345 Coursework	Career Preparation
Week 1	o Digital Typography & Visual Design	o Intro to HTML/CSS o Explore elements of typography and visual design o Exposure to popular CSS frameworks (Bootstrap, Material Design, etc.) o Group Project (in pairs): Small Static Website	o Office tour o Personal bio o Professional Speaker o Impact skills assessment o Presentation practice
Week 2	o Game Design	o Basic JavaScript for the Web o Introductory Game Design o Group-defined project: JavaScript game using Phaser framework	o LinkedIn & Personal Branding o Business Communications o Networking Night
Week 3	o Information Design	o Explore common information design patterns o Implement patterns on the web using popular infoviz frameworks o Explore public datasets	o Office Tour o Informational Interviews
Week 4	o Student's Choice	o Teams build a final MVP project around a concept that solves for a relevant issue in tech, San Francisco, or their area of study	o Networking lunch o Resume o Personal Goal Setting

Dorm-style Living in the Heart of San Francisco
With dorms located centrally in Union Square or SOMA, students live together in dorms hosted by a local, private university. On evenings and weekends, they can experience all San Francisco has to offer, such as festivals, tourist sights, hackathons, meet-ups and local hikes. Meals are provided through an app called Ritual that allows them to conveniently explore restaurants around the city.

Networking Event & Speakers
Adjacent will host a networking event with local alums and professionals with a variety of education and backgrounds. We will also feature guest speakers for a moderated interview to tell their career story as students interview them. Our classrooms have an open-door policy where guests will come in to hear weekly presentations, give feedback, and share their own story.

Company Tours
Students will tour companies - from hearing about career path from a panel of employees at a big technology company like LinkedIn to seeing how a local non-profit serving the homeless sets up their data structure.