



Youth Mental Health Academy

Building careers in mental health

The Child Mind Institute's Youth Mental Health Academy is a community-based, career development program — including paid internships, mentorship, project-based learning, and student support — for rising high school juniors and seniors. It gives students from traditionally underserved communities, including BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ teens, an opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and experience in mental health science, practice, or communications by working with professionals from organizations doing work in those areas. By providing mentorship and training to high school students in underserved communities, it aims to inspire and cultivate tomorrow's mental health leaders.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS AND TIMELINE

Project-Based Learning

During the **first summer** of the academy, students will participate in five weeks of project-based learning to prepare them to complete a capstone presentation in July, followed by ongoing programming throughout the school year. The program will end with a paid internship during the **second summer** of the academy.

Mentorship

Students will meet with undergraduate or graduate mentors regularly during the **first summer** to provide support with completing their Capstone project and throughout the school year to provide support and guidance with navigating the college application process and more.

Linkage to Services

Students and caregivers will have an opportunity to attend panels and workshops to connect to community resources.

Paid Internship

Students will participate in a paid internship during the **second summer** of the academy to gain experience in the mental health field, focusing on clinical work, research, or media/communications.



ELIGIBILITY

- Rising juniors and seniors
- Commit to completing the entire program
- Be enrolled in a public or private high school in CA at the time of application
- Have an overall GPA of 2.5 or higher
- Have a strong interest in mental health
- Be from a structurally marginalized community (details in application form)

