

The Great Ideas Summer Institute (GISI) is a unique week-long academic experience for high school students hosted on the campus of Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. This summer program offers an opportunity for intellectually ambitious students to enjoy the energy of a college classroom, engage ideas that form the essence of American citizenship and develop friendships with exceptional high school students. Students must have completed their sophomore or junior year of high school by the time of the program to apply.

The institute traces the theme of “The Idea of Citizenship in the American Republic.” Students will discuss the Greek origins of Western politics, Roman understandings of citizenship, the case for the American Revolution, the Federalist and the Anti-Federalist debates and the creation of the United States Constitution. Students will also look at conceptions of citizenship and republicanism articulated through the works of Abraham Lincoln, the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, and Justice Thurgood Marshall.

All classes are discussion oriented and are led by full-time Samford professors. Classes consist of three daily sessions (two in the morning and one in the afternoon).

Students arrive on campus by 8:45 a.m., attend morning classes, are provided lunch, attend an afternoon class and enjoy socializing in the same way Samford University students do during the regular academic year. Students are assisted in their stay by student representatives from Samford’s Stockham Scholars, John Howard Scholars and the University Fellows honors program. Classes will end at 3:00 p.m. each afternoon. **Samford is not allowing overnight guests this summer.**

## What makes GISI unique?

Most high schools teach using secondary texts (traditional textbooks explaining key historical events or summaries of important documents). At GISI, you will read the original texts and discuss them with a community of intellectually curious students and professors who will challenge you to think about the material on a deeper level, including the historical and philosophical contexts.

This experience will make you a better high school student and help prepare you for college. In addition, you will develop a mature and reflective understanding of American citizenship, and the history and political philosophy of constitutional republics.

## **When is GISI?**

The 2023 Great Ideas Summer Institute will run June 20-22. Please contact William Jason Wallace, [wjwallac@samford.edu](mailto:wjwallac@samford.edu) if you have any questions.

## **Am I eligible to apply?**

If you have completed your sophomore or junior year of high school by the time of the institute (i.e. are a rising junior or senior), you are eligible to apply. Although we ask for your GPA and other academic information on our application, we do not have specific academic requirements. Please note, however, we have a limited number of spaces each summer and cannot accept all applicants.

## **How do I apply?**

The 2023 dates for the Great Ideas Summer Institute are June 20-22. You can access an application through the link below:

[https://samford.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_08ulAsa0GVEMbLU](https://samford.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_08ulAsa0GVEMbLU)

Please contact Professor Wallace, [wjwallac@samford.edu](mailto:wjwallac@samford.edu) if you have any questions.

## **What does it cost to attend?**

The cost of GISI is \$499.00.

## **For additional information:**

Email Wallace [wjwallac@samford.edu](mailto:wjwallac@samford.edu) or call him at (205) 726-4178.

The Great Ideas Summer Institute is sponsored by the Stockham Chair of Western Intellectual History, the Colloquium on American Citizenship and the University Fellows Program.

<https://www.samford.edu/arts-and-sciences/stockham-program>

<https://www.samford.edu/university-fellows/>