The Best Week Ever

EXPERIENCE

2016 High School Summer Program

The Best Week Ever

Christendom College
Front Royal, Virginia
Experience Christendom Summer Program

The highly acclaimed Experience Christendom Summer Program (ECSP) offers rising high school seniors a unique educational, cultural, spiritual, and social experience. Each summer, hundreds of participants leave Christendom College’s beautiful rural campus with a new appreciation for the liberal arts, Catholic culture, true friendship, and the beauty of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.

Students spend their mornings participating in a variety of liberal arts classes, then after Mass and lunch, they spend the afternoons and evenings enjoying a number of recreational and social events, including canoeing on the Shenandoah River, hiking along Skyline Drive, dancing, singing around a bonfire, bowling, participating in a talent show, and attending an Irish barn dance.

At the end of the week, the students leave amazed by their experience, ranking the program very highly (4.75/5.0) while enthusiastically describing it as their “best week ever.”

Discover the Beauty of the Liberal Arts

**History:** Students study the glorious achievements of the West and the role of Christianity therein.

**Theology:** Students study Sacred Scripture, receiving great insights into deep theological questions, and discussing major Scriptural passages.

**Philosophy:** Students are challenged to answer some of life’s greatest questions: What are happiness and true friendship? Why study philosophy, and what effect can it have on our lives?

**Literature:** Students read short stories and poetry that spark discussion about the wealth of man’s moral, social and spiritual experience.
Liberal Arts Prepares for Greatness

Christendom College is a Catholic liberal arts college offering a time-tested and rigorous education that develops the students’ intellects in such a powerful way that they graduate with the ability to master any subject—no matter how complex.

Our curriculum and committed faculty are complemented by unmatched personal attention that helps students discern and develop their academic and vocational goals.

Our students thrive in a supportive and Christ-centered culture dedicated to helping them realize their potential and become the great men and women God has called them to be. They graduate inspired and empowered to achieve true greatness and become tomorrow’s leaders.

Enjoy the Shenandoah Valley

The beautiful Shenandoah Valley of Virginia boasts the historic and scenic Shenandoah River, the Blue Ridge Mountains, Luray Caverns, Natural Bridge, Skyline Drive, Appalachian Trail, and so much more. The area is famous for its challenging hiking and biking trails, as well as rock climbing, horseback riding, hunting, and fishing opportunities.

Students attending the summer program have the opportunity to hike along Skyline Drive, canoe on the Shenandoah River, and take in memorable sunsets over the glorious Blue Ridge Mountains.

They venture into historic Front Royal, sing Irish songs, and dance at faculty homes in the countryside. The peaceful, rural setting makes the week-long program one to remember.

Learn from Talented Faculty Mentors

Christendom’s faculty is both prestigious and personal, and the professors make themselves available to all of the summer program participants. They teach in the classroom, attend Mass, and eat lunch with the students each day, spending time getting to know each one personally.

All classes are taught by members of Christendom’s full-time faculty, including:

- President Dr. Timothy O’Donnell - Theology (The Angelicum)
- Dr. Patrick Keats - English (Columbia University)
- Prof. Eric Jenislawski - Theology (Yale)
- Dr. Brendan McGuire - History (St. Louis University)
- Dr. John Cuddeback - Philosophy (The Catholic University)
- Dr. Ben Reinhard - English (University of Notre Dame)
- Dr. James DeFrancis - Theology (University of Notre Dame)
- Dr. Michael Kelly - History (University of Notre Dame)

Make Friends for Life

One of the highlights of the program is the opportunity the students have to meet other young people who are trying to live virtuous and well-balanced lives. There are normally 40-50 students in each session - and they bond quite quickly.

Through this program, the participants make friends for life, while at the same time, learn more about all that Christendom College has to offer. Amazingly, students continually remark that they feel closer to their newly established friends than with their life-long friends from back home.

Sharing these life-changing experiences together, in a beautiful setting, while being immersed in the liberal arts under the guidance of top-notch faculty is what makes these friendships possible.
Why Christendom College?

Christendom College has been providing one of the most challenging liberal arts educations in the nation for almost 40 years. The college has been giving its students the opportunity to grow academically in a personal and supportive Christ-centered environment, so that they can achieve all of their dreams and ambitions, and become successful in all of their pursuits. Christendom’s reputation for academic excellence, individual attention, commitment to student success, and its extra-curricular offerings make it a leader among Catholic colleges today.

Programs of Note

Semester in Rome Program: Students spend a semester living and studying in downtown Rome, in the heart of the Church. Accommodations are located minutes from the Vatican and Rome’s historic center. The program includes visits to Assisi, Siena, and Florence, with opportunities for travel to other parts of Europe.

Summer in Ireland Program: Students spend three weeks studying in County Donegal, in the northern part of Ireland. Classes in history, theology, and literature are offered, along with tours of local attractions, and trips to Croagh Patrick and Dublin.

Career & Leadership Development: The college has a robust program to enable its students to succeed in their post-graduation pursuits. Students are given many job searching skills, internship opportunities, and have ample opportunities to connect with the college’s alumni and friends who are employed in a myriad of fields. Graduate school prep tests are offered for free, and the college reimburses students for their graduate school test fees.

Generous Financial Aid Program: Although the college does not participate in Federal financial aid programs, it offers generous scholarships, grants, and loans, making a Christendom education a truly affordable option.

Athletic Program: Many great high school athletes are unable to play competitive sports in college due to tremendous competition and the athletic recruiting system. Due to Christendom’s size and position in the USCAA, these same students are often able to play one, two, or three intercollegiate sports at Christendom, playing (and beating) many NCAA Division II and III teams.
The Experience Christendom Summer Program has been changing lives since 1999

Year after year after year, hundreds of participants leave campus having experienced a life-changing week. The classes, the professors, the campus, the social life, the spiritual life, the true friendships, and the amazing counselors—all added together—make the Experience Christendom Summer Program the most popular in the nation. But don’t take our word for it. Read what former program participants have to say.

Jack W., Virginia
The Heights School
“I went into the program expecting to have fun, to grow in my faith, and to be intellectually challenged. My expectations were blown away. The program was better than I could have imagined.”

Zach H., Connecticut
Fairfield College Preparatory School
“Christendom’s summer program was amazing, and it was one of the best weeks of my life. Why? The classes were cool and the professors were awesome. The activities were unbelievably fun. The counselors were some of the most authentic and most fun people I’ve ever met.”

Shannon W., Illinois
The Willows School
“Before I attended ECSP, I was not even considering attending Christendom. However, after attending, Christendom is one of my top choices of colleges. The classes I took were intellectually stimulating and the professors were brilliant. ECSP really was ‘the best week ever.’”

Robert G., North Carolina
Hanover Academy
“Even though it is not a university, the academic level of the school is beyond anything one could expect from most colleges, even some Ivy League schools. Not only that, but the professors did an excellent job of making the topics interesting and enjoyable. Also, the friendships that were created during that time were incredible.”

Emily W., New Jersey
Mother Seton Regional High School
“I came into Christendom’s Summer Program with mediocre expectations. The classes interested me, the activities seemed like they could be fun, and the concept of trying to befriend 40+ people in just a week, to be honest, made me pretty nervous. By the time I left, however, my perception of Christendom had been completely blown out of the water. I can say without exaggeration that this week was life-changing for me.”

Clare C., Virginia
Chelsea Academy
“It was an amazing week that I will always remember with great pleasure. The enthusiasm of the counselors was extremely contagious. The classes were very invigorating and interesting, and the teachers easily kept everyone’s attention with their enthusiasm for their subject.”
“Christendom College is doing a great work for the Church.”
- Pope St. John Paul II

Tuition, Aid & Registration

The Experience Christendom Summer Program costs $500 for the week-long program. The cost includes all transportation to and from the airport/metro, books/readings, food, lodging, classes, and activities.

Meet Some of the Summer Program Counselors

**Michael Mazzara** - Michael is a sophomore from Pennsylvania. He is an accomplished swing dancer and is active in Christendom’s boxing club, as well as being a member of the college’s Chester-Belloc Debate Society. On Saturday mornings throughout the year, Michael also travels with students to pray outside a DC area abortion clinic.

**Danielle Corcoran** - Danielle is a sophomore who loves life! Coming from a small town in Illinois, she plays for the Lady Crusaders volleyball and basketball teams, and is a member of this year’s cross-country team. She is an active member of the Student Activities Council which puts on all of the school-wide activities and events throughout the year. This is her second year as a program counselor.

**Paul Flagg** - Paul, who comes from Virginia, is a junior who spent his fall semester studying in Rome during Christendom’s semester in Rome program. A master of all things musical, Paul enjoys playing guitar and banjo. He has worked as an Assistant Admissions Counselor, served as a Student Ambassador, and worked with the Student Activities Council putting on events.

Dates for Summer 2016

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<th>Session 1: June 12-18</th>
<th>Session 4: July 10-16</th>
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<td>Session 2: June 19-25</td>
<td>Session 5: July 17-23</td>
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<td>Session 3: June 26-July 2</td>
<td>Session 6: July 24-30</td>
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Registration opens on December 1, 2015. christendom.edu/experience

Each year, many students are placed on a waiting list and are unable to attend due to the tremendous popularity of the program, so it is important to register for the program by early spring to avoid the waiting list. **Financial assistance is available to anyone who requests it.**
Transportation to Campus

Christendom College is located approximately 75 miles from Washington, DC, and is easily accessible from Dulles International Airport (IAD) or Reagan National Airport. Students flying into Dulles Airport are picked up by the counselors in college vans.

Students who choose to fly to Reagan National need to take the Metro to the Vienna Metro Station, where they will be picked up by the counselors. All shuttles to and from the airport or metro station are complimentary.

Once registered, a complete weekly schedule, an “items to bring” list, a reading packet, and other paperwork will be sent out via email.

To read more testimonies, view videos, or learn more about Christendom College, please go to www.christendom.edu.

We hope to see you this summer! It’s going to be the best week ever!

Meet Some of the Admissions Office Team

Sam Phillips - Sam has been the Director of Admissions since July 2014. Prior to that, he served as Director of Admissions at The Avalon School in MD, as well as a teacher and extra-curricular event organizer. He is a 2008 history major graduate of Christendom College, and while a student, was active in the drama club, the baseball team, and was an ECSP counselor.

Tom McFadden - Tom is the Vice President for Enrollment and manages a number of different departments, including admissions, enrollment, marketing, career development, and student success and satisfaction. He earned his BA and MA in Theology from Christendom and has worked at the college since 2000.

Klarissa Blank - Klarissa has worked in the Admissions Office since graduating with a theology degree from Christendom in 2014. As a student, she was involved in the Student Activities Council, was an RA, played varsity soccer and basketball, and was an ECSP counselor. She is also the assistant coach for the Lady Crusaders soccer team.

Great Minds Think Alike

Christendom College’s time-tested and challenging Catholic liberal arts education is the same education that has inspired and produced the greatest scientists, scholars, heroes, and saints of the past 2000 years. By learning from the greatest minds of Western Civilization, our students strive for excellence and achieve greatness in a supportive and Christ-centered culture.

Our education is not for the faint of heart, but for those who are willing to accept the bold and challenging call from God to become the great men and women He wants them to be.

Dare to join us. Dare to be great.
CHRISTENDOM COLLEGE
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christendom.edu/experience