



# EXETER SUMMER

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ACCESS EXETER®

(STUDENTS CURRENTLY IN GRADES 7 AND 8)

2026 COURSE CATALOG

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PHILLIPS EXETER ACADEMY

# Exeter Summer

## 2026 ACCESS EXETER® COURSE CATALOG

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# ACCESS EXETER

Access Exeter is for students who have completed grades 7 or 8 and will be 13 years old before September 1, 2026. As an Access Exeter student, you choose from academic clusters containing three courses that are specifically grouped together.

All Access Exeter boarding students participate in an afternoon physical education class for at least one hour (scheduled between 3:30pm and 6:30pm) four times per week (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday), and on two Wednesdays (July 15 and July 22). **Note: Physical Education classes are optional for day students.**

Students may, for an additional fee, enroll in music lessons, the SSAT Prep course, or replace physical education classes with Exeter Rowing Club, Exeter Soccer Club, or Exeter Volleyball Club. Access Exeter students may also participate in extracurricular activities offered both on and off campus.

The coursework requires student participation in group discussions for all classes. Students can expect one hour of homework per class each night. All students must have a high level of English proficiency to attend the program. Non-native English speakers with fewer than five years of primary language instruction in English must submit a documented TOEFL iBT examination score of 100 or greater. For more information about the TOEFL iBT exam, please visit [ets.org/toefl](https://ets.org/toefl).

Each Access Exeter student will be enrolled in one of the following academic clusters:

- **Creative Design and Purpose for a Changing World**
- **Land and Sea: Exploring the Power of the Natural World**
- **Problem-Solving: An Odyssey of the Mind**
- **A Global Community**
- **The Creative Arts: Let Your Spirit Soar**
- **Exeter CSI: Crime Scene Investigation**
- **Classics: Exploring the Ancient World**
- **Kind by Design: Make it Big in a Good Way**
- **Movie Time: Exeter's Filmmaking Academy**
- **The Irene F. Hamm P'87 Access Exeter® Leadership Program**

## COURSE CHANGES

It is impossible to honor all students' first-choice cluster. Carefully select your first-, second-, and third-choice cluster on the application. Exeter Summer reserves the right to cancel clusters and limit the size of classes where necessary. If a cluster is cancelled, students will be reassigned to an alternate cluster and will be notified of the change.

Any course change requests must be made by a parent/guardian via email to Exeter Summer ([summer@exeter.edu](mailto:summer@exeter.edu)). Course change requests will not be accepted by phone. Requests for a cluster change submitted before April 15 will be considered. Reassignment to a different cluster is based upon availability. **No cluster or sports changes will be made after the start of the program.**

## TUITION AND FEES

### 2026 ACCESS EXETER PROGRAM

Boarding Student: \$11,500

- includes
  - three academic courses
  - room and board (all meals)
  - PE classes from general offerings

Day Student: \$8,000

- includes
  - three academic classes
  - meals while on campus
  - PE classes from general offerings (optional)

### Optional Extracurricular Fees:

SSAT Preparation Course (Live Online course)	\$1,000
Exeter Rowing Club	\$2,000
Exeter Soccer Club	\$1,100
Exeter Volleyball Club	\$1,100
Music Lessons (four 50-minute lessons)	\$475

## DAILY SCHEDULE SAMPLE FOR ACCESS EXETER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Brunch 9:00 – 12:30	A-Format 8:30 – 9:20	A-Format 8:30 – 9:20	A-Format 8:30 – 9:20	A-Format 8:30 – 9:20	A-Format 8:30 – 9:20	<i>Formats Alternate Weeks</i> Week 1 & 3    Week 2 & 4 A-Format   B-Format 8:30 – 9:45
	B-Format 9:30 – 10:20	B-Format 9:30 – 10:20	B-Format 9:30 – 10:20	B-Format 9:30 – 10:20	B-Format 9:30 – 10:20	
	Assembly 10:30 – 11:20	Student Free Time 10:30 – 11:20	Student Free Time 10:30 – 11:20	Student Free Time 10:30 – 11:20	Residential Life Time 10:30 – 11:20	<i>Formats Alternate Weeks</i> Week 1 & 3    Week 2 & 4 C-Format   D-Format 9:55 – 11:10
	C-Format 11:30 – 12:20	C-Format 11:30 – 12:20	C-Format 11:30 – 12:20	C-Format 11:30 – 12:20	C-Format 11:30 – 12:20	Campus Activities and Off Campus Excursions
	D-Format 12:30 – 1:20	D-Format 12:30 – 1:20	D-Format 12:30 – 1:20	D-Format 12:30 – 1:20	D-Format 12:30 – 1:20	
	Sports: see your schedule	Sports: see your schedule	Sports: see your schedule	Sports: see your schedule	Sports: see your schedule	
Campus Activities and Off Campus Excursions	Optional Activities 7:00 - 8:15	Optional Activities 7:00 - 8:15	Optional Activities 7:00 - 8:15	Optional Activities 7:00 - 8:15	Optional Activities 7:00 - 8:15	
Dorm Check-in 8:30	Dorm Check-in 8:30	Dorm Check-in 8:30	Dorm Check-in 8:30	Dorm Check-in 8:30	Dorm Check-in 8:30	Dorm Check-in 10:30
Lights Out 10:30pm						Lights Out 11:30pm

Breakfast: 6:45am – 9:00am, Monday – Saturday

Lunch: 11:30am – 2:00pm, Monday – Saturday

Dinner: 5:00pm – 7:00pm, Monday – Sunday

# Creative Design and Purpose for a Changing World

How can we unite creativity, scientific design, and justice to change the world and take better care of our environment? In this cluster, students will learn about our natural resources and explore renewable energy through problem-solving in a multi-science class and be challenged to turn recycled materials into art by connecting with nature. They will explore ways to use political power and strategic persuasion to influence positive changes in their communities and become leaders that will make a difference in the world.

## Energy and Innovation

*SCI-EAI*

In this multi-science course, you will investigate biological, physical, and chemical aspects of Earth's working systems and energy alternatives through hands-on discovery. In the field and in the lab, you will use computer probes, microscopes, and lab tools to conduct experiments that simulate global processes that include greenhouse effect, ocean acidification, albedo effect, decomposition, and carbon sequestration. Your curiosity and creativity will be sparked as you problem-solve to model and test your own re-designs of existing alternative energy technologies, making them greener and more efficient.

## Political Science: Power, Persuasion, and Positive Change

*SSC-PPP*

Addressing any problem begins with recognizing it! You understand that the clock is ticking to develop and implement strategies for living in cleaner, safer harmony with our environment, but where do you begin? The future is yours and you have the power to shape it! In this course, you will investigate global issues facing the world today and how people, from individuals to institutions, initiate lasting change in their communities. Furthermore, you will create your own political community at the Harkness table that will inspire you to learn by doing. You will both discuss and put into practice creative and persuasive ways to influence policymakers, corporations, local businesses, and community organizations that will include newspaper articles, public displays, and public opinion surveys. The lessons of this course do not end when you leave Exeter; the benefits will follow you home and last a lifetime.

## Art: Transform the World

*ARTS-TTW*

In this studio class, we will develop our creative powers. Drawing on natural sciences, a wide range of arts, and mythologies from around the world, we will engage with perspectives of life on Earth, both old and new. These ideas inform our creations. Our materials will be newspapers, recycled cardboard, and other things that are often discarded. Working with our hands, scissors, glue, paste, and paints we will transform scraps and trash into objects revealed. Evening assignments will include personal sculpture and painting studies, with some visits to the library stacks. In this course you will discover your artistic aptitude, learn about form, image and technique, and collaborate to create pieces for the final Student Art Exhibit.

**>>> Students are required to bring their own laptop computer, Chromebook, tablet or iPad for homework in this cluster.**

# Land and Sea: Exploring the Power of the Natural World

The Land and Sea Cluster leads students on an in-depth study of Marine Biology, Survival Literature, and Visual Art. Through these courses, students will come to understand the symbiotic, yet sometimes volatile, interactions between humans and nature. What are the unique challenges marine organisms face compared to their terrestrial counterparts? What has the growth of the human population done to marine ecosystems? When does nature fight back? Why are artists frequently inspired by the natural world? Careful study of these questions through reading, discussion, and hands-on learning in the studio, lab, and at the rocky intertidal coast will leave students inspired by the fascinating connections between the land and sea.

## Literature and Film

EWS-LAL

The literature and film course is designed to open the doors to the world of nature and its unpredictability and power. You will experience both the serene and the turbulent aspects of Mother Nature. Sensory experiences will be reflected through your writing as well as an integral part of discussions. Through novels and film you will journey outside of the classroom where the power of nature over mankind takes you to places and situations unimaginable.

## Marine Biology

SCI-MBA

Our oceans are the lifeblood for planet earth. They drive our weather, supply oxygen and food, and offer hints at how life on earth may have started. And yet they remain vastly unexplored, harboring new discoveries and challenges to existing theories almost daily. In this course, we will examine the power and mysteries of the world's oceans and its inhabitants through text, film, and hands-on exploration. Interdependence will be an overarching theme in this course as we study the close relationships organisms have with one another and their environment. Taking advantage of the beautiful New Hampshire coast just miles away, you will learn about the specific organisms of the New England rocky shore and familiarize yourself with the ecology of the complex intertidal ecosystem in which they live. Additional marine ecosystems, including coral reefs and deep sea vents, will also be explored. Weekly readings and discussions will challenge you to apply your understanding of marine ecosystems and processes to contemporary issues facing our oceans.

**>>> Proper water shoes are required for trips to the coast. Flip-flops are not suitable.**

## Observations in Nature

ARTS-OIN

In *Observations in Nature*, an art class, you will put your passion to work and let nature guide your creations. We will explore the impact of humans on living things through art. Our work will focus on telling the story of both land and sea creatures. We will experiment with a variety of media and techniques: drawing, mural making, sculpting, painting, and building. Stretch your skills and creativity through readings, group collaboration, skill-building exercises, and place-based projects. During the final week, students will display their artwork at the Student Art Exhibit.

**>>> Students are required to bring their own laptop computer, Chromebook, tablet or iPad for homework in this cluster. They are also required to buy a sketch book, some pencils, and an art board.**

# Problem-Solving: An Odyssey of the Mind

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In our ever-changing world, we are confronted with problems that are increasingly complex and often lack clear solutions. To address these problems, we need to learn new approaches and become more agile problem-solvers. In this cluster, through the disciplines of robotics, computer science, and mathematics, students will learn how to implement a variety of problem-solving techniques involving creativity, collaboration, and abstract thinking.

## Robotics

### SCI-ROB

Physicists observe the workings of the world and then use mathematics and abstract thinking to try to explain what they have observed. In this course, you will have the opportunity to look at the world as the physicist does—to observe, measure, ask questions—to use abstract thinking to solve a variety of problems. Your readings and discussions will carry you into analysis of Newton’s laws of motion and give you glimpses into the world of Quantum Theory and Einstein’s Special Theory of Relativity. Using LEGO® MINDSTORM™ products, you will learn to apply physics concepts to robotics. The robots you build will interface with computers to analyze motion and generate graphs. Finally, you will design and create individual robots for competition in the grand challenge of Robotic Pizza Delivery.

## Problem-Solving and Mathematical Modeling

### MATH-PMM

We use the language of mathematics to help us unlock the secrets of the patterns we observe in the world around us. This course is designed to help students grow as independent thinkers and learners through the exploration of creative strategies for solving involved, non-routine math problems (many of them having to do with important yet deceptive patterns). An emphasis will be placed on collaborative work as students brainstorm and exchange ideas with their peers, taking advantage of the different perspectives each brings to the table. Students will be challenged to work on and improve their explanation skills through in-class discussions and graded problem-sets. The topics covered will include permutations and combinations, basic probability, recursion, and some introductory number theory.

## The Fundamentals of Computer Programming

### CMP-FCP

Computers are the way we work and play. With computers we can travel through space, design and build better cars, and predict the weather. Computers are amazing, but the computer hardware itself is only half of the story. What really makes a computer so useful is its flexibility. The same computer can be used to design cars and to play games and chat with friends over the Internet. The difference is the software. In this course, you will learn how to create simple software programs that will allow you to investigate and solve problems in math, physics, and statistics. You will use the power of the computer to run simulations that model real-life events. Ultimately, you will discover how the computer can be used to help you better understand what is going on in the world around you.

**>>> Students are required to bring their own laptop computer that is capable of downloading software and has a USB port. A Chromebook, tablet or iPad cannot not be used in this cluster.**

# A Global Community

Every day the world becomes more connected as we turn into one big community. As a group of global citizens gathered around the Harkness table, students will sample multiple languages, read world literature (in translation), and grapple with global issues such as apartheid, ethnic cleansing, world hunger, and the many consequences of globalization. This cluster offers discussions and debates, group projects, reading and writing, and the excitement of making new friends from around the world.

## Dipping into Modern Languages

LNG-DML

In this course, you will have the opportunity to experience a sampling of modern languages. Teachers will provide you with a basic introduction to the various languages and cultures. Through conversation and hands-on activities, you will learn greetings and simple dialogues for everyday situations. You will also learn about the traditions of people who speak the languages, including their music, dance, and food. Given the multicultural realities of the world in the twenty-first century and the globalization of ideas and economies, language study is indispensable. Sampling some of the world's many languages will be both challenging and fun. The intent of this class is to help you make informed decisions about future language study.

## The World's Literature

EWS-TWL

The World's Literature course works in tandem with the *Dipping into Modern Languages* class. For example, in a week when you are learning Russian or French, you may be reading short stories by Anton Chekhov or Victor Hugo (in English translation, of course!). At the Harkness table, you will discuss literature originally written in Russian, Japanese, French, or German. Working closely with your peers, you will learn to participate in Harkness table discussions. In addition, you will have many opportunities to develop your critical reading and writing skills as you work on a wide variety of expository and creative writing assignments that go along with the nightly readings.

## Contemporary Global Issues

HUM-CGI

This ethics course will allow you to examine a wide range of global concerns, from terrorist assault to the fragility of the environment, from ethnic cleansing to apartheid, from economic recession to world hunger. In seminar discussions, you will raise questions and share observations with classmates equally engaged in collaborative discourse. In your research and writing, you will examine those issues you find most compelling.

**>>> Students are required to bring their own laptop computer, Chromebook, tablet or iPad for homework in this cluster.**



# The Creative Arts: Let Your Spirit Soar

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How can we tell stories? The Creative Arts Cluster allows students to explore narrative and tell their own stories through performing, visual, and literary arts. In *Ceramics*, students will gain basic hand-building and wheel-throwing techniques that will produce a final visual narrative to be displayed in the Student Art Exhibit. The *Invitation to Theater* class will focus on the four main skills of the actor – Voice, Imagination, Movement, and Empathy – and students will utilize these skills in the creation of characters for a play they will perform in the final week of the program. Creative Writing rounds out the cluster with reading and writing poetry, short stories, and personal essays that explore the relationships between form and meaning thus preparing students to author their own narratives.

## Ceramics

ARTS-CRM

This course explores mixed surface treatments used in ceramics providing a new medium to bring forth your perspective through shape and form. Working with the expressive qualities of hand-formed clay, the lines and textures of the brush, and the experimental opportunities of mixed media glaze applications, we will shape and reshape our visions of the world that surrounds us. During class, we will discuss ways to convey spirit, narrative, and perspective through experimental forms and careful techniques. At summer's end, you and your classmates will produce a three-dimensional narrative made from clay, which you will share with one another and with the broader community at the Student Art Exhibit.

## Creative Writing

EWS-ACW

As Stephen King writes in his memoir *On Writing*, “if you want to be a writer, you must do two things above all others: read a lot and write a lot.” This class will ask students to do just that. We’ll dive into the art and craft of creative writing through the lens of exploration by dipping our toes into different genres of creative writing: fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction, experimenting with voice, structure, and style. Through daily writing exercises, peer workshops, and Harkness discussions, writing will not be so solitary. You’ll find a community of writers and readers who you will inspire and who will inspire you. Whether you’re building your first story or refining your poetic voice, this course is designed to help you grow and see the power you have with just your pen. How will you tell your story?

## Invitation to Theater

DAD-ITT

In this course you will learn about the basics of theater with an emphasis on acting. As you hone skills of memorization and monologue portrayal, you will adopt new perspectives that lead you to challenge yourself to truly enter the mind of the character you are portraying. You will audition for your class performance and learn vocabulary about acting and theater through workshops and games, eventually working toward a final performance at the end of the summer. In learning about blocking, projection, diction, and tone, you will examine new ways to unlock the human spirit – both your character’s and your own – while productively refining your craft as an actor and theatrical thinker.

**>>> Students are required to bring their own laptop computer, Chromebook, tablet or iPad for homework in this cluster.**

# Exeter CSI: Crime Scene Investigation

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Within the CSI cluster, students become critical thinkers by solving a crime using the scientific investigative practices learned in Forensic Science. Additionally, students will read and analyze stories that define the genre known as “Detective Fiction”. Students will also study the medium of photography, explore composition and learn photo-editing using Adobe® Photoshop®.

## Detective Fiction

### *EWS-DET*

During this intensive reading and writing course, students will immerse themselves in the popular genre of Detective Fiction. At the Harkness table, we will come together to discuss and analyze a variety of works by authors such as Edgar Allan Poe, Sir Anthony Conan Doyle, Agatha Christie, and Dashiell Hammett. Whether solving the case alongside the amateur detective or with the private investigator, we will navigate the world of crime and investigation through the eyes of great detectives. By bringing questions and quotations from their daily reading, students will delve deeper into the life of the detective, and even the criminal as they decide who ultimately can and cannot be trusted.

## Forensic Science

### *SCI-FOR*

Imagine you are a crime scene investigator and have just arrived at the scene of a terrible murder. A young woman has been killed, and though her apartment has been ransacked, the killer has been very careful to hide his identity. Hours of painstaking investigation yield only two small pieces of evidence: a human hair and a drop of blood. Years ago, such minute evidence might have foiled police efforts to find the culprit, but contemporary science offers keys to unlock microscopic evidence that may solve the crime. Today, forensic scientists can examine the hair and blood samples to reveal the killer’s DNA. In this course, you will study the techniques used in the forensic laboratory and learn about the scientific principles basic to those research techniques. You will explore the world of DNA structure and function, blood-typing and inheritance, DNA fingerprinting, and forensic anthropology. You will examine case studies of actual crimes and trials and you will meet professionals in various fields of forensic science who will share their “real-life” Crime Scene Investigation experiences with you.

## Introduction to Digital Photography

### *ARTS-DIG*

The digital camera, a primary tool in a crime scene investigation, allows photographers to review results immediately and make adjustments as they shoot. This introductory photography course stresses the photographic image as a significant visual statement. You will explore the use of a digital or smartphone camera and the essential elements and underlying principles of good photography. The terminology of the photographer’s craft – composition, sharpness, point-of view, rule-of-thirds, framing, contrast, and depth-of-field – are reinforced through regular “shooting” assignments. Also included in the course, is an opportunity for you to become familiar with the history of photography and notable photographers who defined the medium in their time. To master basic skills in the digital darkroom and further explore and experiment with creative tools to enhance photographs, you will use the image editing program, Adobe® Photoshop®, to make effective compositions that are expressive and meaningful through cropping, balancing color, adjusting brightness/contrast, and working in composite layers. At the end of the session, each student has an opportunity to choose their two best works for display at the Student Art Exhibit.

**>>> Students are required to bring a digital point-and-shoot camera (DSLR or smartphone cameras are acceptable), 3.0 USB Flash Drive with at least 32GB, and their own laptop computer, Chromebook, tablet, or iPad for homework in this cluster.**

# Classics: Exploring the Ancient World

Travel back in time with an immersive experience in Classics, the study of ancient Greece and Rome. This cluster uses art, language, and literature to bring ancient history to life. Students will view authentic Greek and Roman artifacts, and will close the summer with Roman-style games such as chariot races and mock gladiatorial matches.

## Art and Archaeology

ARTS-AAA

In this course you will explore day-to-day life in the ancient world through the art and archaeology of ancient Greece and Rome. Through discussions and hands-on projects, you will experience more than 2,500 years of Classical sculpture, ceramics, architecture, coinage, and fashion. Learn about ancient history, archaeological methods, and the kinds of challenges facing archaeologists today. Hone your observational skills through an objective look at everyday objects, and learn how to identify artifacts from ancient civilizations. Students will build their own model of a Greek temple, try their hand at making Classical-style clay figures, practice draping a toga, and more.

## Mythology and Literature

HSS-MYT

The mythology of ancient Greece and Rome continues to exert a powerful influence on popular culture and fiction, from books and films like the *Harry Potter* and *Percy Jackson* series to video game appearances by a whole slew of Classical monsters. But who actually killed Medusa or defeated the Sphinx? What exactly happened during the Trojan War? Just how many gods did the Romans worship? Learn the answers to these questions and more as you explore the roots of mythical figures and stories through the lens of epic poetry and tragic drama. Using primary sources from Ancient Greek and Roman literature, students will study the characters and themes in Classical myth and legend. Authors may include Homer, Vergil, Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, and Ovid. Learn mythology from Achilles to Zeus!

## Classical Languages

LNG-CLA

Examine the relationship between speech, myth, and culture as you study the languages that united two of the most powerful civilizations in the ancient world. Latin and Ancient Greek continue to exert a profound influence on language today, forming more than 70% of English's total vocabulary and a significantly higher percentage of vocabulary in math and science. You will spend the first half of the summer learning Attic Greek and the second half learning Latin. Through passages drawn from mythology and fables, you will strengthen your understanding of art, culture, the sciences, and language. The final project, writing an original short story in Latin, will challenge you to stretch the limits of your creativity and writing skills.

**>>> Students are required to bring their own laptop computer, Chromebook, tablet or iPad for homework in this cluster.**

# Kind by Design: Make it Big in a Good Way

Science and commerce, business and technology are here to stay. The world currently has the challenge to find ways to align economic and technological principles that are benign not only to people, but also to the earth as a whole. In this cluster students will be asked to explore ways to achieve this lofty goal through practice by designing a product of their very own invention, and creating a business plan to sell and promote it by (e.g., designing a webpage). Throughout this process the students must strive to 'do no harm' to the people and all living things upon our shared planet while creating a product that makes the world a better place before, during, and after its usefulness.

## Entrepreneurship: Moral Money Making

SSC-MMM

Have you ever had that "million dollar idea"? Want to have your own business someday? This class will allow you to explore these interests by giving you the opportunity to create your own product, research what it takes to develop it, and learn how to create a business to sell it. More importantly, you will learn to think beyond your business and consider the implications and impact that you, your employees, and your product have on the greater world. Students will also investigate opportunities to build a profitable business that can make the world a better place during the product's manufacture, use, and even after its useful life. The course will culminate in a 'Kind Shark Tank' activity where students will present their business ideas to an audience of 'potential investors'. Products will be judged not only on projected profit margins (although this is primarily important), but also usefulness to the world, its impact on society, and the environment before, during, and after its useful life.

## Science in Nature: Biomimicry Beyond Benign

SCI-BBB

In this class you will learn the secrets of how to create products that do no harm to our world, but are just as good if not better than existing alternatives. To achieve this goal, scientists learn from the earth and the natural processes that have evolved over millions of years. Through hands-on activities, students will experiment with cutting-edge technologies and laboratory techniques that will launch the next Fortune 500 companies of tomorrow. Students will participate in an invention pilot program developed through Beyond Benign, Inc. and the Lemelson-MIT Program. Starting with the same renewable resource as feedstock and starch, students will work their way through the invention process, ultimately designing a useful product such as biodegradable plastic straws, hand lotion, or fluorescent playdough. Finally, students will assess their product based on the 12 principles of green chemistry developed by Dr. John Warner from the Warner Babcock Institute for Green Chemistry.

## Marketing: Dignified Digital Design

SSC-DDD

This is an introductory digital marketing course that provides an overview on consumer behavior as well as the actual market. Students will learn about market targeting and segmentation; determining distribution; pricing and promotional strategies; developing a communications strategy; budgeting; analytics; as well as optimization. Ultimately, students will develop a critical eye for discerning and distinguishing between ethical and non-ethical marketing.

**>>> Students are required to bring their own laptop computer, Chromebook, tablet or iPad for homework in this cluster.**

# Movie Time: Exeter's Filmmaking Academy

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Film media is an important part of daily life in the modern world. We are exposed not only in theaters and on television, but increasingly through online mediums and phones. In this cluster, students will explore the fundamentals of filmmaking from three different points of view: screenwriting, video production, and media and society. The three classes will be linked in several ways; for instance, viewing films and reading the screenplays for those films and writing screenplays that are then produced in video production.

## Video Production

### FILM-PRO

This introductory class will cover basic filmmaking techniques using video cameras, video composition, and digital editing and effects. Students will work as a film production team to plan and create several short films in a variety of genres, including both documentary and fiction. They will have the opportunity to film and edit a screenplay that they develop as part of their *Screenwriting* course. The class will use several video software programs including iMovie® and Adobe® Premier Pro® for editing, and Adobe® After Effects® software for adding effects to their films.

## Screenwriting

### FILM-SCN

The foundation of any good film is the story it tells. This class introduces the process of developing a story and building it into a screenplay that is ready to be made into a film. Students will learn about exposition, character development, dialogue, and visual storytelling. The class will work collaboratively to develop screenplays and storyboards for a short film that they will film and edit in the *Video Production* class. Students will also read several screenplays from films they watch in the *Films in Society* class.

## Films in Society

### FILM-FIS

Film media plays an enormous role in today's culture, but also has a rich history of societal importance. This class explores film history and its impact on society and culture. Students will view several full-length films and discuss the films' influence on moral and cultural life within the film's original context compared with the interpretation in today's context. The class will explore and discuss the impact that these films have played in cultural movements, politics, civil rights, and world events. The course will also cover the history of technological change and its influence on both the production and consumption of film media.

**>>> Students are required to bring their own laptop computer, Chromebook, tablet or iPad for homework in this cluster.**

# The Irene F. Hamm P'87

## Access Exeter® Leadership Program

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The *Access Exeter Leadership Program* immerses students in a learning environment designed to reflect upon the characteristics and contexts of effective leadership. The program incorporates traditional academic coursework with experiential learning that encourages students to discover and cultivate their own leadership potential both on the Phillips Exeter Academy campus and within the surrounding communities.

Although what happens in the classroom around the Harkness table is crucial to each student's understanding of what leadership means, the *Leadership Program* offers opportunities for further self-development within the context of hands-on activities such as capstone projects, excursions, films, speakers, and group projects.

The *Leadership Program* seeks to develop key aspects of leadership including personal confidence, successful oral and written communication, awareness of context, ethics, decision-making, conflict resolution, problem solving, group dynamics, the relationship between leaders and followers, and an understanding of various leadership theories and models.

**>>> Admission to this cluster is limited and selective. Due to the rigorous nature of the *Access Exeter Leadership Program*, students must have a high proficiency in English to be considered.**

### Access Exeter Leadership Program Courses

#### **Change Your World**

LEAD-CYW

How do we involve others to make change? This leadership course challenges the notion that leadership is about telling others what to do. You will motivate others to engage, facilitate community meetings, and collaborate to create public-informed policy. Through readings, hands-on practice, and real-world case studies, you will discover how to lead even in divisive environments. Through this course, you will gain the confidence and skills to facilitate change in your community and the world.

#### **My Voice Matters**

LEAD-MVM

In this course, you will investigate the stories, essays, poems, and/or films from leaders in society and how they stepped up to the challenges they faced to become leaders. You will explore issues of racism, gender discrimination, economic mobility, and environmental degradation. Finally, students will discover and hone their own voices as they write essays and action plans to address the themes found in the works studied in the class.

#### **The Art and Science of Creating Real Change**

LEAD-ASC

Art is a powerful force that resonates far beyond aesthetics—it has the ability to express joy, sorrow, and empathy, while offering fresh perspectives on the world around us. Throughout history, from ancient Greece to the present day, art has also served as a compelling tool for activism, used to challenge authority, provoke thought, and fight injustice. In this course, we'll explore art as activism. Through a hands-on approach, you'll learn directly from local artists working across various mediums as they share their techniques, insights, and creative process. Be prepared to create art as well as change!

### **Capstone Projects**

Each leadership student will become a member of a capstone team tasked with impacting the Exeter Summer community in a meaningful way. These projects are intended to be cooperative efforts where each team member is equally involved in accomplishing an overarching goal. Students in the Leadership Program will be paired up with the Upper School leadership students to work simultaneously on related projects. Through this process, students will learn to develop a variety of skills including setting a goal, forming an agenda, time management skills, conflict resolution, resource allocation, and coordinating teamwork – essentially putting everything learned in the classroom into a tangible project.

### **Excursions**

Leadership happens out in the community and not in the classroom. For students to see these principles in action, several excursions off campus will take place during the school day. At the beginning of the session, students will challenge their critical thinking and team building skills while at a ropes course. Other trips will include visits to local and Boston-based nonprofit organizations to learn about how they are impacting the communities they serve.

**>>> Due to the extensive schedule of the *Access Exeter Leadership Program*, students may not enroll in the SSAT Preparation class.**

**>>> *Students are required to bring their own laptop computer, Chromebook, tablet or iPad for homework in this cluster.***



# Prepare for the SSAT with Academic Approach®

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## The Academic Approach® SSAT Preparation Course

Increase your chances of getting into your top-choice high school through our SSAT preparation course! Scoring well on the SSAT is crucial if you're planning to apply to Boarding or Independent Day Schools—let us help you prepare for this important exam (we promise to make the process as enjoyable as possible). With the Academic Approach SSAT Preparation course, you'll not only learn the necessary mathematics, reading, and vocabulary skills to succeed on the SSAT, but you'll also learn useful test-taking strategies to ensure you earn the best score. Academic Approach's live online classroom courses are uniquely effective and efficient because of the high level of customized teaching we provide. As expert tutors, we know that one size does not fit all, so we differentiate each class, customizing each study plan to the class's specific strengths and weaknesses. Our teachers know how to make a live online classroom experience effective in raising scores, academically enriching, and, just as importantly, enjoyable for the students.

## Live Online (Via Zoom) SSAT Preparation

The Academic Approach SSAT Preparation course begins with a remotely-proctored online diagnostic test on Saturday, June 13, 2026. International students or students who cannot make the test on June 13, may take the exam self-proctored anytime in the following two weeks. Analyzing the results of the diagnostic allows us to personalize our instruction to meet the needs of each student and the class overall. From the diagnostic, you'll also gain an in-depth understanding of what skills to focus on to help you raise your SSAT scores.

Students will be given access to an online student portal featuring digital copies of the manuals, practice tests, and student score reports. SSAT students will also gain access to our online mastery quizzes, which have hundreds of additional SSAT practice problems for continued study.

Students will then take a second test to gauge their progress on Sunday, August 2, 2026 (students who have extended time may take the test self-proctored at another date).

Families are welcome to contact Academic Approach at [www.academicapproach.com/SSATexetersummer](http://www.academicapproach.com/SSATexetersummer) before and after the course for a complimentary consultation.

## This supplementary course requires an additional fee.

>>> **Extracurricular course fee: \$1,000\***

*Please Note: It is recommended that each student have a calculator for the math portion of the instruction and for the diagnostic tests. Any four-function, scientific, or graphing calculator is acceptable for the SSAT.*

**\*Fees are NOT refundable once the pre-test has been taken.**

*The SSAT Preparation Course is a live online (via Zoom) class and not taught in Exeter's Harkness method.*

Academic  Approach

Chicago • Boston • New York City

[www.academicapproach.com](http://www.academicapproach.com)



# Access Exeter Physical Education Classes

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Physical Education, an important component of Exeter Summer, promotes fitness, cooperation, sportsmanship, and the learning of new skills. The sport offerings are designed to introduce fundamental rules and skills, provide some competition and recreation, and stimulate long-term participation in athletics. **All PE classes are coeducational.**

All Access Exeter boarding students participate in an afternoon sport class for at least one hour (scheduled between 3:30pm and 6:30pm) four times per week (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday) and on two Wednesdays (July 15 and July 22). **Sports are optional for day students.**

There are two sessions of sports with students taking one sport per session; students will select the sports of their choice during the application process. First session runs from July 7 through July 20 and the second session runs from July 21 through August 3. It may not be possible for all students to get their first choice for both sessions; however, we will make every attempt to enroll students in a preferred activity in one of the sessions.

Equipment will be supplied for some activities, but students should bring their own athletic attire. ***Refer to the individual class descriptions for special equipment and/or attire requirements.***

The Director of Athletics supervises the programs and classes are taught by professional Physical Education instructors. We strongly encourage students to explore new sports activities during Exeter Summer.

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## Basketball

This class will provide experiences intended to improve students' fundamental skills and understanding of the game of basketball. They will participate in drills and exercises that will lead to competitive play.

## Cross Country Running

Students will improve their cardiovascular fitness and their physical strength through daily runs on the fields, in the woods, and throughout the campus and town of Exeter. Students will learn a series of stretching movements for warm-ups and cool-downs. The class is structured for both the novice runner as well as the serious, competitive runner. ***Proper footwear is required.***

## Introduction to Dance

In this fun introduction to dance class, students will have the opportunity to learn different dance techniques including modern jazz, hip-hop, musical theater, video dance, and more! No prior dance experience is necessary!

## Lacrosse

This class is designed to teach the fundamental skills of throwing and catching. The class will be coeducational and primarily non-competitive with skill development and understanding of the game as the focus.

**>>> *This class is offered in the 1st session only. Students are required to bring their own lacrosse sticks.***

### Learn to Row

Students will learn the fundamental movements and strokes required in Crew. They will learn to work independently and cooperatively to propel the barge that is used for novice rowers.

**>>> *Students must pass the required swim test. This class is limited to 10 students.***

### Non-Traditional Games

This class utilizes experiential learning where the students will get to know each other and build trust via problem-solving activities that are presented throughout the course. Students will learn to respectfully formulate a solution and execute the plan of action in an organized, cooperative manner. The class will include some competitive activities which will require exercising your body and your mind.

### Soccer

This class is for students of all abilities and experiences in the game of soccer who desire to improve their fundamental soccer skills and understanding of the game. They will play cooperatively with others in a structured, competitive environment. ***Exercise clothing and proper footwear is required. No metal cleats are allowed.***

### Speed and Strength

This class is designed to help students to improve their speed, strength, and agility. The class will focus on a variety of exercises, including weightlifting fundamentals, speed fundamentals, core strengthening and stabilization. Some of the benefits you will gain while participating in a speed and strength conditioning class include improved body balance, improved sports performance, and reduced risk of injury. No experience is necessary. ***Exercise clothing and proper footwear is required.***

### Squash

The squash class is structured to teach beginners, as well as those with some previous experience, the basic strokes and tactics of the game. Students will progress to the point where they will be able to play a competitive match. Racquets, balls, and eye-protection will be supplied, but ***non-marking, non-black soled shoes are required.***

**>>> *This class is limited to 20 students.***

### Learn to Swim

This class is designed for students who are non-swimmers and who want to learn to swim. They will be taught basic lessons in floating and fundamental swimming strokes to increase their comfort level in the water. Students will follow an American Red Cross® curriculum. ***Proper swimwear attire is required.***

**>>> *This class is offered in the 2nd session only.***

### Competitive Swimming

This class is for students who want to increase their knowledge and experience as competitive swimmers in a structured environment. Students will refine strokes and be challenged to increase their fitness. ***Proper swimwear attire is required.***

**>>> *Prerequisite:*** Students must have at least two years of competitive swimming experience with a club, school or youth team.

### Beginner Tennis

This class is designed for students who have either very limited experience or no knowledge in the game of tennis. Students will learn and practice the basic racquet skills and strokes. Students will also learn the basic rules so they can progress to playing both singles and doubles matches. ***Proper footwear is required.***

### Intermediate Tennis

This class is designed for students who have already learned the basic skills and rules of tennis. Students will be evaluated at the onset of the class and placed in smaller groups based on ability and experience. After evaluation and limited instruction, students will progress to singles and doubles competitive matches. ***Proper footwear is required.***

**Competitive Tennis**

This class is for students who have experience playing tennis and who wish to train to advance their skills in a competitive environment. Students must have the skill, knowledge, and experience to play competitively against players of a similar ability. Students will progress to playing singles and doubles matches. ***Proper footwear and a racquet are required.***

**Ultimate Frisbee**

This class is a non-contact team sport played with a flying disc (frisbee). Simple to learn and fun to play, students will be challenged both physically and mentally. They will be physically active, play cooperatively, and compete in a non-traditional team game.

**Volleyball**

This class is structured to provide experiences for beginning, intermediate, and experienced players who are looking to improve their skills in the game of volleyball. Drills and exercises in the fundamentals and proper techniques daily will lead to competitive play as the class progresses.

**>>> *Students may sign up for only one session.***

**Yoga**

This class is structured to provide a gentle series of exercises and stretching that will involve warm-ups, strengthening of abdominal muscles, back and core, standing postures, and relaxation and recovery. The maneuvers will be set to popular music as well as classic relaxing yoga music and will emphasize a “breath to movement” theme.

**>>> *Yoga mats are provided.***

**NOTE: Access Exeter students may elect, for a fee, to enroll in Exeter Rowing Club, Exeter Soccer Club, or Exeter Volleyball Club as their sports option for the entire Exeter Summer session. Those who want to participate in one of these elective sport programs, should make the selection in the sports dropdown menu on the application.**

# Exeter Rowing Club

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Exeter Rowing Club is an intensive crew program for both experienced and beginner/novice students who are interested in a rigorous, competitive experience. Students train for two-hour sessions (3:30-5:30pm) four times a week (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday) and on two Wednesdays (July 15 and July 22) for the entirety of the summer program.

Experienced coaching staff train students at the Saltonstall Boathouse and students row 8-person shells on the tidal Squamscott River using the sweep rowing technique.

*We offer two levels:*

**Beginner/Novice** – This option will allow students who have never rowed before to participate in crew. The program teaches the finer aspect of sweep rowing as well as general fitness and joy for the sport. Being able to lift and carry the boat is part of the experience. Students should be able to lift and carry at least 50 pounds (25 Kg).

**Experienced Skills Program** – This option offers a more intense program for experienced rowers and is recommended for those who had had at least one full season with their home team and comfortable with sweep rowing. Students will receive highly detailed technical coaching as well as a more rigorous training plan to prepare them to return to their home teams a better oarsperson. Students should be able to lift and carry at least 50 pounds (25 Kg).

***Students must pass the required swim test.***

**>>> Extracurricular course fee: \$2,000 which includes a training shirt and baseball cap.**  
This special program takes the place of the regular Physical Education classes.

If you want to participate in this program, select **Exeter Rowing Club** in the sports dropdown menu on the application. Enrollment is limited to 50 students.

# Exeter Soccer Club

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Exeter Summer offers Exeter Soccer Club as a special intensive program that students may choose in place of the regular sports program. Students train for 90-minute sessions (4:00-5:30pm) four times a week (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday) and on two Wednesdays (July 15 and July 22) for the entirety of the summer program.

The program is designed to improve a player's skill, ability, and tactical understanding of soccer. Through an assortment of drills and games, students will develop in a variety of ways including their passing range and accuracy, first touch, dribbling skills, 1v1 defending, crossing and finishing abilities, team attacking, and team defending.

***A pair of cleats (no metal bottoms) are required. Turf shoes are optional.***

**>>> Extracurricular course fee: \$1,100 which includes a training shirt.**

This special program takes the place of the regular Physical Education classes.

If you want to participate in this program, select **Exeter Soccer Club** in the sports dropdown menu on the application. Enrollment is limited to 40 students.

# Exeter Volleyball Club

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Exeter Summer offers Exeter Volleyball Club as a special intensive program that students can choose in place of the regular sports program. Students train for 90-minute sessions (4:00-5:30pm) four times a week (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday) and on two Wednesdays (July 15 and July 22) for the entirety of the summer program.

The program is designed to increase the ability and skill of all participants. All player levels are welcome. The focus is on the fundamentals (pass, set, hit, block, and serve) and perfecting techniques.

Other skills taught include: cover float serving, top spin serve, jump float, and jump spin serving; and the proper techniques in: forearm passing, overhead passing, and overlap rules of the game. Instruction on blocking systems and footwork commonly used in the collegiate and professional game is given. Students are also taught a 3-step approach and work on hitting a variety of setting tempos. Players will increase their volleyball IQ and ball control through drills, games, and play.

***Players should bring proper athletic clothing and shoes; kneepads are optional.***

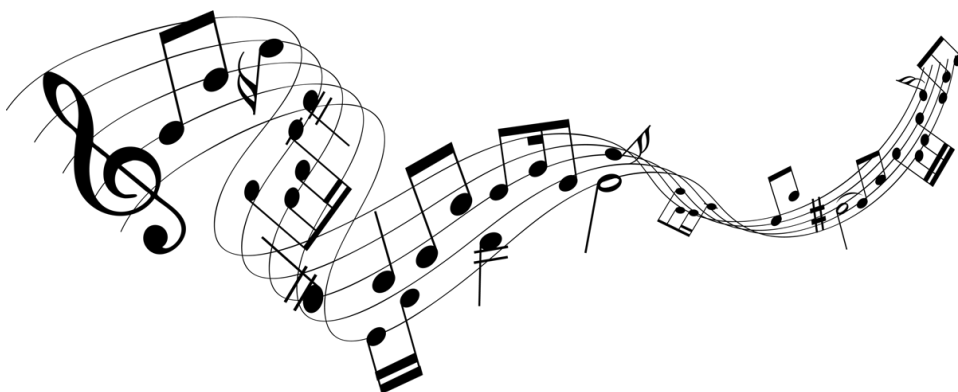
**>>> Extracurricular course fee: \$1,100 which includes a training shirt.**

This special program takes the place of the regular Physical Education classes.

If you want to participate in this program, select **Exeter Volleyball Club** in the sports dropdown menu on the application. Enrollment is limited to 36 students.

# Extracurricular Activities

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## Music Activities

Extracurricular music activities are organized for students who wish to employ their talents and pursue their interests outside of the formal musical performance classes. Students are encouraged to bring their musical instruments and join the instrumental group.

>>> If you want to participate in the following free extracurricular music program, be sure to indicate your interest during the onboarding process.

**Evening Ensembles** - All interested students are encouraged to participate. This group provides coaching and accompaniment of solos. Auditions for forming chamber groups will be held during the first week of the session. Group limit is 40 students.

>>> *Meets Tuesdays and Thursdays 7:00-8:15pm*

## Music Lessons

The Academy offers lessons in voice and a variety of instruments. *Students who wish to take music lessons should indicate so on the application. Lessons may be added until April 15, 2026.*

>>> Cost for Music Lessons: \$475 for four 50-minute lessons

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## Affinity Groups

Exeter Summer is made up of a diverse student body from all over the world who create a unique community each summer. Students are encouraged to bring their whole selves to campus. We provide opportunities for support and camaraderie by having faculty-led affinity groups during our session.

Affinity groups may include Afro/Latinx, Christian, Gender and Sexuality Alliance, Jewish Community, Muslim, Native American, and Pan Asian.

>>> The groups generally meet once a week in the evening. A schedule with days and times will be available to students when they arrive to campus.

### Student Activities

The Student Activities Office provides students with a variety of educational and leisure outings particular to New England. Trips are scheduled on Saturdays after academic classes and on Sundays. Exeter Summer charges a user fee rather than a blanket charge included in the tuition.

The user fees are based on cost of admission (where applicable), the cost of transportation, and administrative expenses. We also offer a number of no cost on-campus activities throughout the summer. We will continue to enhance these activities in response to students' ideas.

#### Examples of possible trips and estimated fees:

Blueberry Picking	\$10
Canobie Lake Amusement Park	\$55
Downtown Portsmouth	\$20
Funtown Splashtown USA	\$70
Hampton Beach	\$20
Ice Skating	\$25
Mini Golf	\$20
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston	\$30
Museum of Science, Boston	\$50
Pottery Painting	\$30
Shopping: Burlington Mall	\$25
Shopping: The Mall at Rockingham Park	\$20

#### On-campus free events may include:

Closing Carnival  
 Faculty vs. Student Athletic Competition  
 Jewelry Making  
 Karaoke  
 Flick N' Float  
 Movies  
 Painting



# EXETER SUMMER

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[exeter.edu/summer](https://exeter.edu/summer)

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