The School of Interactive Arts (SIA) is a pre-college program for high school students who want to make games and prepare for college. Classes are free for students who are able to commit to the program. Right now, we are admitting students for the 2020 Summer Camp for Game Design, running from July 13 to August 19th, 2020. Classes will be held virtually Monday through Friday, 10 am to 5 pm with breaks throughout the day.

Outcomes

SIA is a multi-year program. The more time spent in the program, the better the outcomes.

College

SIA prepares students for the top game design programs in the country. Our students have been accepted to USC, NYU, RIT, and more. We also assist students interested in other STEM or animation related programs.

Competition

Each year, SIA students compete in national competitions – including the Games for Change Student Challenge. Our students have won awards every year since 2017, and were given opportunities to showcase their games at major game developer exhibitions.

Scholarship

SIA seniors have earned over $1.5M in merit scholarships.

Academic

SIA provides SAT Prep and essay writing workshops. Our classes also prepare students to take an AP course in computer science.

Entrepreneurship

Students have earned over $10,000 by launching their own original games through KickStarter.

How to apply

Email sia@urbanarts.org explaining your interest in SIA – with the subject line [Requesting Application]. In the body of your email, please provide your Name, School, Grade Level, and Why you are interested in joining our program. We will follow up with you after that, usually within a week!
FAQs

Q: Do I need to be good at Math?
A: Not at all. Some of our strongest alumni were ‘C’ students in high school math. Programming is similar to learning to draw or to play an instrument - it’s about getting good at a new way of thinking. We pride ourselves on our ability to teach you how to program if you have a strong desire to learn.

Q: Is there an opportunity to continue with SIA after the summer?
A: That’s the idea! We hope that you have a good enough time over the summer that you’ll want to continue on in our Fall program that takes place on Saturdays and Monday’s after school. The longer you stick with us, the more impressive your outcomes will be.

Q: Do you only teach programming?
A: In addition to our Game Design classes, we also teach Art-Form classes including Visual Arts, Music & Sound Production, and Narrative Writing for games. Besides these, we also host events such as video game tournaments and table top RPG campaigns.

Q: Where is SIA located?
A: Our campus is located at 39 W 19th St, New York, NY. We are accessible by most major train lines.

Q: Does SIA provide transportation support?
A: Yes. Lunches, Snacks, and Metrocards are provided each Saturday class.

Q: What will happen if I stay in SIA for multiple years?
A: SIA has 3 tiers of classes -- Core, Advanced, and Studio. Here’s a flowchart of what you’ll be doing in them:

"I feel like I’m finally in a space where I can express my interest in video games... I’ve met a lot of really good people here and made a ton of friends, people I really connect with. I feel like that’s one of the best things about SIA.” – Sarah A.