



Calling
all current
Sophomores
and
Juniors

Compass Summer programs are short-term, project-based experience that will help you build important skillsets in a team setting, regardless of your desired career path.

*Start with curiosity -
See where Compass Summer takes you*



And the best part?
The programs are
no additional cost!
All meals, housing,
outings, and materials
are fully funded!

Compass Summer 2026 Program Options

May 9-13
Explore Wild Rhode Island
with Dr. Chace

May 11-16
Mindfulness in Nature
with Dr. Martasian

May 11-15
Embryos & Editing: From Tidepools
to CRISPR Technology
with Dr. Pickett

May 18-22
Entrepreneurship: Ideation to Venture
with Shelly Nicholas & Dr. Witham

May 11-15
AI Futuremakers: Exploring Artificial
intelligence from Code to Creativity
with Dr. Altounian

May 11-22
Civic Leadership Lab:
Change Starts Here
with Drs. Anderson & Alarcon-Arana

May 11-15
Community Engagement &
Public Health
with Drs. Cherubini &
Montminy-Danna

May 11-22
Walking Through History: Creating
Historical Tours through Newport
with Drs. van den Hurk & Condella

May 11-15
Conserve Coastal New England
with Dr. Ramsay

July 6-17
Prepare to Launch:
Facilitating College Success
with the Pathways Program
and Aida Neary

May 11-15
Stewardship & Sanctuary
with Drs. Yencha & Jones

July 8-18
Summer Institute of Politics
with Dr. Ludes

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Explore Wild Rhode Island with Dr. Chace (12 students)

Critical Concern: Earth

May 9-13

During this week of adventure, you will explore natural Rhode Island from a variety of modes of transportation, such as bikes, kayaks and sailboats! You will build community to assist and empower one another to achieve the various goals of the day, ranging from hiking to an end of a trail to completing a successful sail. Through working cooperatively, you will learn about natural history and geology of RI while engaging in relevant human history and natural history discussions.

AI Futuremakers: Exploring Artificial Intelligence from Code to Creativity with Dr. Altounian

(15 students)

Critical Concern: Varies

May 11-15

Dive into the future with our hands-on Artificial Intelligence program! This immersive experience bridges foundational AI knowledge with creative exploration and real-world applications. No matter your major, you'll gain the technical skills and ethical awareness needed to navigate an AI-powered world. Explore the power of AI and prepare for the future!

Embryos & Editing: From Tidepools to CRISPR Technology with Dr. Pickett

(10 students)

Critical Concern: Nature & Medicine

May 11-15

Dive into the cutting edge of science! From the Rhode Island coast to the lab bench, you'll collect marine organisms, observe embryos, and work with CRISPR technology – the revolutionary gene-editing system used in cancer medicine! This hands-on research experience combines fieldwork, molecular experimentation, and creativity. You'll use microscopes to observe the effects of gene edits, design a scientific poster, and explore the real-world biomedical applications of CRISPR. Join us for a fun, authentic research adventure and experience the joy of scientific discovery!

Community Engagement & Public Health with Drs. Cherubini & Montminy-Danna

(12 students)

Critical Concern: Health & Wellness

May 11-15

Hit the road in our Mobile Health & Wellness Unit and make a real impact! You'll team up with community partners to identify vulnerable populations, perform essential needs assessments, and develop educational interventions. Learn directly from community leaders, then use your knowledge and research to deliver vital health education where it's needed most.

Conserve Coastal New England with Dr. Ramsay

May 11-15

(12 students)

Coastal communities throughout the world are under threat from natural and anthropogenic sources such as ourselves! This program will explore the wide diversity of marine and habitats here in New England through exciting, hands-on field explorations. Whether it's exploring tide pools, trekking through coastal marshes, or visits to local aquaculture facilities, you will spend the week (literally) getting your feet wet while gaining appreciation for the ecosystem services these valuable coastal habitats provide us.

Stewardship & Sanctuary with Drs. Yencha & Jones

(10 students)

Critical Concern: Earth

May 11-15

Make a difference in the lives of animals at River Haven Animal Sanctuary. Team up with our community partners to provide essential care, socialization, and training for abused and neglected animals. You'll learn how behavioral principles are used to create sustainable environments and strengthen the incredible bond between animals and their caregivers.



**Mindfulness in Nature
with Dr. Martasian
(8 students)**

**Critical Concern: Earth & Non-Violence
May 11-16**

Unwind and reconnect with nature in this program! Explore the beautiful landscapes of Acquidneck Island and South County through a variety of peaceful practices, including Forest Baths, walking meditations, journaling, gentle yoga, creating mandalas, and more. Discover the power of mindfulness and find your inner calm in the great outdoors.

**Entrepreneurship: Ideation to Venture
with Shelly Nicholas & Dr. Witham
(15 students)**

**Critical Concern: Varies
May 18-22**

This intensive, experiential entrepreneurship program is designed to inspire creativity, provide hands-on experience, and teach essential elements of launching new ventures. With guidance from external experts and coaches, this experience will bring together undergraduate students from diverse disciplines to learn, collaborate, and develop innovative ideas.

**Civic Leadership Lab: Change Starts Here
with Drs. Anderson & Alarcon-Arana
(10 students)**

**Critical Concern: Varies
May 11-22**

Take on a high-impact civic leader experience in Newport County! Work alongside community organizations on a hands-on, project-based mission to tackle a real community or organizational need. Make a difference and see policy in action!

**Walking Through History: Creating
Historical Tours Through Newport with
Drs. van den Hurk & Condella
(14 students)**

**Critical Concerns: Immigration &
Sustainability
May 11-22**

Come and be immersed in the architectural, cultural, and intellectual history of Salve's campus and the wider Newport community. Explore one of the nation's most significant collections of Gilded Age mansions and landscapes and connect these late-19th-century environments to Newport's deeper historical layers – including the early-18th-century presence of the philosopher George Berkeley, who lived and worked in Newport from 1729 to 1731. All while creating an interactive campus tour map for students and alumni to enjoy.

**Prepare to Launch:
Facilitating College Success with the
Pathways Program and Aida Neary
(6 students)**

**Critical Concern: Immigration &
Anti - Racism
July 6-17**

Are you passionate about mentoring high school students? If so, this program is for you! You will serve as facilitators and peer mentors for first generation, college-bound high school seniors during a week-long immersive program to help them develop and gain confidence in their college readiness.

**Summer Institute of Politics
with Dr. Ludes
(5 students)**

**Critical Concern: Varies
July 8-18**

Work with Salve Regina's Pell Center to immerse high school students in an intensive, week-long, residential program of study, focused on leadership and confidence building. Featuring members of the University faculty and staff as instructors and drawing in speakers from across the region, this program is part of a comprehensive approach to the current crisis in American public life, shepherding students through an exploration of contemporary public and international issues, models of servant leadership and approach to politics guided by one of the hallmarks of Mercy: empathy.



“Compass Summer gave me the unique opportunity to research and explore a business plan without the pressure of grades, allowing me to focus entirely on what I could help create. The freedom to dive into the process on our own terms made all the difference. Because of compass summer, we walked away ready to launch our business, and now we’re in the process of making that a reality. The progress we made over the summer was truly the foundation for where we are today.”

–Claudia J, '27



Applications due February 13, 2026

After scanning QR code,
log-in using your Salve credentials
to complete the form.



Questions?

Contact Jen Jensen, Associate Director
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