



# Tech Camp 2017

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is Tech Camp?

Tech Camp, hosted by the Engineering Science Corps at the UCLA Henry Samueli School of Engineering & Applied Science (HSSEAS), opened its doors in the summer of 2012. This 4 week summer camp exposes rising sophomores and juniors to the creative nature of engineering through project-based activities and team challenges. Campers will experience working in HSSEAS' state of the art Student Creativity Center alongside hand-selected UCLA engineering student mentors under the direction of UCLA faculty and program staff.

Take your understanding of engineering to a new level at Tech Camp. Ignite your drive to explore and innovate through hands-on projects. Learn about the many opportunities and pathways at the UCLA Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science. Get a taste of UCLA college-life as a participant in Tech Camp and gain a competitive-edge on your peers.

### 2. What makes Tech Camp different from other summer camps?

First, Tech Camp is hosted by the UCLA Henry Samueli School of Engineering & Applied Science. Participants will have the opportunity to work with current UCLA engineering undergraduates in the new Student Creativity Center, which provides lab and work space during the academic year for 5 of our 30+ engineering student organizations. Participants will get to learn about the various organizations, their educational opportunities, and design competitions. Campers will also get to hear from UCLA Faculty as well as gain valuable information on the UCLA Engineering application and admissions process.

Second, Tech Camp is a formal education and outreach program. Tech Camp is the Dean's gateway outreach program. Tech Camp will better prepare participants to apply for the more competitive High School Summer Research Program and undergraduate admission to a competitive engineering program.

Third, Campers can expect to be challenged over the summer. Tech Camp is not a "follow the directions on the box" kind of experience. Your math and science skills, creativity, and innovation will be pushed as an active participant in the design, build, and test phases of your project. Campers will experience the complexity and challenge of engineering work by taking ownership of the process from development to final demonstration.

Finally, Tech Camp offers high school students the unique opportunity to "check-out" UCLA before getting here. Campers will gain valuable testimony from UCLA students, be able to check out the campus resources, and get an idea of the campus community before applying for college.

### 3. What will I be doing on a daily basis during the 4 week Tech Camp?

Each day will vary depending on your team's progress. The following are some examples of daily activities:

- a. Technical Breadth – You'll gain exposure to engineering concepts and apply your math and science skills through workshops with your team mentors. These skills will then be applied in lab work while developing your project.
- b. Hands-on lab work – Your team has a project challenge to complete and demonstrate at the Tech Camp Finale. Whether working independently on small 1 – 2 member groups or as a team-whole, you will spend a great deal of time researching, developing, and trouble-shooting your project.
- c. Workshops & Tech Talk – Tech Camp members will have a number of opportunities to learn more about engineering, current research, UCLA, and pathways to the discipline. Campers will be able to speak with UCLA Faculty, current students, and visit UCLA engineering facilities.
- d. Lunch & Daily Recreation – Balance is key to providing Campers a well-rounded experience which includes a bit of outdoor team-building activities. Organized by our undergraduate mentors, we will offer Campers some recreation time to interact with participants outside the lab. Critical "soft skills" that engineering

companies have shared with UCLA Engineering will be discussed, practiced, and honed during these outdoor team-building activities.

**4. Who should apply to Tech Camp?**

Are you a rising sophomore or junior in high school? Do you have an interest in learning how things work? Are you generally inquisitive about the world around you? Would you like to have an opportunity to apply the math and science skills you've learned in the classroom? Does spending a summer working with UCLA undergraduates on an engineering design, build, and test project in our new Student Creativity Center sound exciting? Would you like to gain a competitive-edge on your peers in getting a "taste" for the world of engineering by participating in a university recognized engineering summer program? If you've answered yes to these questions then Tech Camp is for you!

**5. Is Tech Camp a selective program?**

Yes. As an outreach program for the School, selection of Tech Camp participants is a competitive process. Participants are hand-selected by Tech Camp faculty and staff based on project needs, **genuine interest in learning about engineering**, and likelihood to persist. In 2016, over 200 online applications were submitted to Tech Camp.

**6. What is your student-to-staff ratio?**

4-5 students per undergraduate mentor. This ratio is ideal for providing individualized support while maintaining a good group dynamic. All students will receive hands-on, individualized instruction throughout the day and our curriculum is designed to be customized for beginner to advanced learners so students can work at their own pace. All mentors are current undergraduate students in UCLA's Henry Samueli School of Engineering & Applied Sciences and are hand-selected by our Faculty Director for participation in Tech Camp.

**7. Can I participate in both Tech Camp 1 & Tech Camp 2?**

Attending Tech Camp 1 and 2 in the same summer is not supported. Alumni can choose to re-apply in following summers to work on a different project; however, priority will be given to new applicants.

**8. When does the program run?**

Tech Camp 1	Monday, June 26, 2017 – Friday, July 21, 2017 (no camp on July 4 <sup>th</sup> )
Tech Camp 2	Tuesday, July 25, 2017 – Friday, August 18, 2017

Monday – Friday	
9:00 AM – 4:30 PM	Lunch not included Unstructured early drop-off (8:30 AM) & Late pick-up (5:00 PM) available

Tech Camp is an intensive program with lofty goals for our short 4 week session. All Campers must attend the full duration of their session. Please check your vacation and high school academic calendar to ensure you are able to participate in the full-term of the Camp you select.

**9. What if Tech Camp 2 overlaps with the beginning of school in the fall?**

LAUSD students attending schools that begin prior to the culmination of Tech Camp 2 may request a letter supporting participation in an Independent Study Contract with their school. Decisions to grant Independent Study Contracts are determined by your school. We encourage you to contact your school administrator regarding this issue prior to Tech Camp.

**10. How much does the program cost?**

\$3500 | 4 week Tech Camp program, Tech Camp t-shirt, and Program Finale.  
Students are responsible for their commute to and from campus and lunch accommodations (with the exception of lunch provided at the weekly Pathways workshops.)

**11. Are Tech Camp scholarships available?**

Yes! The UCLA Henry Samueli School of Engineering & Applied Science awards a limited number of tuition awards focused on subsidizing registration fees for low-income Tech Camp applicants. Applicants must complete a Tech Camp Tuition Award (TCTA) application by the stipulated deadline. For more information please visit the Tech Camp scholarship page.

**12. What payment methods does Tech Camp accept?**

Personal check made payable to UC Regents. Unfortunately we are not set up to accept credit card or cash payments. A payment form will be provided to selected participants. We ask that you notate the participant name and Tech Camp session on your check when making a payment. Please do not mail checks to Tech Camp prior to receiving an invitation to participate.

**13. What is the application process and payment timeline?**

All applications will be reviewed after the application deadline. If an invitation (sent via email) to participate is extended, the applicant will be responsible for submitting the completed forms, which will be sent along with the notification email, and a minimum down-payment of at least ½ the registration fees (\$1750) acknowledging participation in Tech Camp 2017 within one week of notification. The remaining balance of \$1750 will be by the end of May, 2017 to confirm your spot in Tech Camp. All applicants will be contacted by the beginning of May regarding their application.

**14. What is Tech Camp's refund policy?**

Generally once payment is made to Tech Camp there is no refund policy. Exceptions for extenuating circumstances will be made by Tech Camp on a case by case basis.

**15. Do I need any specific equipment to participate in Tech Camp?**

We request Campers bring their own writing utensil (pen or pencil), closed-toed shoes, and pants (for those participating on projects that require time in a chemical lab or machine shop). We also highly recommend Campers bring a scientific calculator (if they have one) and their cell phone to Tech Camp as we utilize the text feature as an effective method to quickly communicate with students in unexpected situations.

Those residing in the dorms through the duration of Tech Camp will utilize their cell phones to update their Residential Team member (more will be explained at the Mandatory House meeting at the start of the program).

**16. Is there housing available for out of area students?**

Tech Camp offers UCLA housing for a \$2500 fee for out of town participants. Housing can now be arranged for both Camp 1 and Camp 2. Participants will live in a UCLA dorm with 2 other high school students through the duration of Tech Camp. There are currently no scholarships available for Tech Camp housing. For more information, see Housing FAQ below.

**17. Is there any parking options for commuters?**

It is the responsibility of the participant to find transportation to and from UCLA. Parking can be arranged for a fee from UCLA Parking Services ([www.transportation.ucla.edu](http://www.transportation.ucla.edu)) and bus passes can be purchased from UCLA Central Ticket Office (<http://tickets.ucla.edu/>).

**18. Is lunch provided?**

No. Lunch is NOT provided with the exception of days when a Pathways workshop is scheduled. It is expected that students make necessary arrangements for lunch. Students can bring a lunch with them or visit one of UCLA's many eateries (<http://www.asucla.ucla.edu/restaurants/map.asp>).

**19. What can I expect for meals provided during the Pathways workshops?**

Meals are catered from local eateries such as Panda Express, Subway, Dominos Pizza, etc. Students are requested to supply their own beverage for lunch. Vegetarian options will be provided for students based on dietary restrictions. Information on diet can be submitted through registration forms once a student is selected to participate.

**20. Are Campers allowed to have lunch on their own?**

Generally, no. Campers will go to Ackerman Student Union or the Court of Sciences Food Court together. Participants are allowed to get their meal (purchased or home-lunch) and eat with the group. Parents can pre-arrange to meet their child during the scheduled lunch hour with Tech Camp staff.

**21. Who should I ask to complete a letter of recommendation form?**

The ideal candidate to ask to complete your recommendation forms would be someone who can speak intelligently about your experience. The ideal reference would also be someone who can speak to your academic potential and your interest in learning more about engineering, science, and/or technology. This person could be a teacher, counselor, administrator, community leader, or supervisor at work or volunteer organization.

**22. When will I know if I am accepted into the program?**

Participants will be notified on a rolling basis after reviews of applications begin after the application deadline. All applicants NOT accepted into Tech Camp will be notified by May 2017.

**23. What is the Tech Camp Finale?**

The Tech Camp Finale is a culminating event at the conclusion of each Tech Camp. Participants will share work conducted over the four weeks through this presentation/demonstration style event. Awards and acknowledgements will be delivered to notable Campers. University community including faculty, staff, students, members of campus development and industry partners will be invited to attend. The Tech Camp Finale is scheduled for Friday, July 21, 2017 (Tech Camp 1) and Friday, August 18, 2017 (Tech Camp 2) at 1:00 PM. Family and friends are highly-encouraged to attend.

**24. Can I take a vacation or time off during Tech Camp?**

No. Tech Camp is a competitive program and your daily participation is expected. The success of your team is highly dependent on continued momentum on your project. Participants may form small 2 person sub-groups. Missing team-members will not only greatly affect the experience for fellow Campers but also the overall success of your project. It is expected that participants are attending daily (and on-time) for the duration of the Camp session.

**25. What type of projects will I be doing?**

You will use your math and science skills combined with engineering concepts learned at Tech Camp to design, build and test that design. Our team spends many hours reviewing student profiles and will make team selections based on your experience, interest, and project needs. Consequently, it is important to provide us as much information in your application as possible.

**26. Where will I be working?**

Tech Camp will be run out of the UCLA HS-SEAS Student Creativity Center located in Boelter Hall 2730.

**27. What is the difference between Tech Camp and the High School Summer Research Program (HSSRP)?**

Tech Camp is a four-week program offering participants a chance to exercise their creativity and build hands-on projects guided by undergraduate engineering mentors. HSSRP is an eight-week program where participants will be conducting novel research with UCLA professors and graduate students.

**28. Can I apply for both Tech Camp & HSSRP?**

Yes, we encourage you to apply for one or both. Your application will be reviewed independently by program staff and applying to more than one does not affect our consideration of you as an applicant to these programs. Please note that Tech Camp targets rising sophomore and junior-level students while HSSRP targets rising seniors.

**Housing FAQ**

---

**29. Where will I be living if I choose to stay at UCLA?**

Tech Camp participants will be living on 'the hill' in a UCLA dormitory. Participants will be housed in a triple with fellow Tech Camp participants. Campers' rooms will be neighboring participants in the High School Summer Research Program (HSSRP) and Explore Engineering (our program for international high school students). The Engineering Science Corps arranges for all our high school groups to be in one area to create a larger cohort of students (approximately 40 - 50) living in the dorms.

**30. What kind of supervision can I expect while living in the dorms?**

An Engineering Science Corps summer residential staff team will be living in the dorm through the duration of Camper's stay. This team, made up of graduate and undergraduate residential staff, is responsible for ensuring the safety and whereabouts of participants outside of lab. This team will also provide valuable mentorship regarding your work at Tech Camp as well as provide support that may help you to make the most of your stay at UCLA. Generally, there is one residential mentor per ten residents. Additionally, UCLA Housing front desk staff is available 24/7 to assist residents with any issues that may come up.

**31. What's included with Housing accommodations?**

Detailed information about dorm facilities, amenities, services and move-in information will be provided prior to the start of the program. Your housing contract includes:

- Triple-bed dorm room (shared with other program participants),
- 15 meals/week (breakfast & dinner – lab is a distance from the dining halls. Please plan for lunch accommodations (not provided)),
- Internet access,
- Access to laundry facilities (coin-operated), and campus recreation facilities.

**32. Will there be any structured activity for those living on-campus?**

Yes. The residential team will help to organize evening and weekend activities for our Campers. Examples of these activities include casual activities like ‘pick-up’ sports on the athletic field or a movie-night to planned off-campus excursions to Santa Monica or Hollywood. Costs for these activities are not included and are based on student interest.

Additionally, residential staff will hold a weekly check-in meeting with all residents as well as a weekly individual check-ins with each resident. Participants will be required to find a time outside of lab to have a quick one-on-one check-in discussion with their residential mentor.

In between planned activities, residents spend their time working on their technical projects. Students participating in the residential component have the added benefit of having their Residential Team mentors (current UCLA Engineering students) available as a resource.

**33. I'm an athlete and have to keep my work out routine over the summer. Can I go to the gym before or after lab?**

Yes. Many students elect to spend some of their free time checking out our excellent campus recreation facilities or connect with other athletes to continue their work-outs. **How about practice rooms for musicians?** Yes. Most dorms are equip with a practice room and are available on a first come first served basis.

**34. Is there a curfew for residents? What about the other rules?**

Yes! Details about curfew, check-in and out, and other housing policies will be provided to residents prior to their arrival and shared at the mandatory dorm meeting at the start of the program. Parents/ guardians are highly encouraged to attend. Additionally, an Engineering Science Corps Summer Outreach Programs housing contract must be signed by both participant and their parent/guardian.

**35. When is move-in?**

Tech Camp move-in for residential participants will generally be held on the afternoon of the day before the start of the program.

Tech Camp 1 Move-in & Mandatory Housing Meeting – Sunday, June 25, 2017

Tech Camp 2 Move-in & Mandatory Housing Meeting – Monday, July 24, 2017

**For questions not addressed in this document, please contact Wes Uehara (wuehara@seas.ucla.edu).**