

November 30, 2009

Dear Colleague:

I am writing about Columbia University's Science Honors Program (SHP) and its application process for the 2010-2011 academic year. This program, now in its fifty-second year, offers enrichment courses in science and mathematics on Saturday mornings throughout the school year to 650 students who have been selected from approximately 750 high schools in the metropolitan New York area. Next year's SHP will have openings for 400 new students. Applicants must now be in the 11th, 10th, or 9th grade and should have a strong interest and exceptional ability in science and mathematics. I would very much appreciate your informing appropriate students about the program. The enclosed announcement can be posted, and copies can be distributed to all science and mathematics teachers in your school.

The program uses an online application process which students can access on the Columbia University SHP web page:

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/shp/apply.html>

Each applicant will be asked to do the following:

- (1) Submit an online application.
- (2) Request that the high school mail an official transcript directly to the SHP.
- (3) Request that a teacher, guidance counselor, or principal submit an online recommendation letter.
- (4) Take a three-hour entrance examination at Columbia on April 10 or April 24.

The deadline for the SHP receipt of student online applications is March 3, 2010. Mailed official transcripts and online letters of recommendation must be received by the SHP no later than March 24, 2010. Admission decisions will be announced by June 23, 2010.

I would like to thank you for your assistance in helping Columbia University continue this valuable program.

Sincerely,



Allan S. Blaer  
Professor of Physics  
and SHP Director

# Columbia University Science Honors Program

The Columbia University Science Honors Program (SHP) is a highly selective program for high school students who have a strong interest in science and mathematics. The SHP holds classes at Columbia from 10:00 A. M. to 12:30 P.M. on Saturdays throughout the academic year. Courses are given in the physical, chemical, biological, behavioral, and computing sciences, as well as in pure and applied mathematics. Instructors are scientists and mathematicians who are actively engaged in research at the University.

## *SHP Courses Offered This Past Year*

*Experiments in Molecular Bacteriology*  
*Neurobiology of Development and Disease*  
*Psychology of Mind and Brain*  
*Environmental Sciences and Public Health*  
*From Nanoscience to Nanotechnology*  
*Relativity and Quantum Theory*  
*Experiments in Atomic and Nuclear Physics*  
*Introduction to Astrophysics*  
*Topics in Topology and Group Theory*

*Microbial Genetics and Genomics*  
*Human Physiology*  
*Organic Chemistry*  
*Fossil Fuels and Global Change*  
*Computer Programming in Java*  
*Fundamental Particles and Forces*  
*Modern Cosmology*  
*Number Theory*  
*Calculus in the Complex Plane*

The program and its courses have no tuition charges; however, families of SHP participants are asked to consider making voluntary contributions to help support the program.

The SHP is now accepting applications for the 2010-2011 academic year. Applicants must currently be in the 11<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, or 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Columbia will be selecting 400 students for the program from approximately 750 schools in the metropolitan New York area. The program uses an online application process which students can access on the SHP webpage:

**<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/shp/apply.html>**

The selection of students will be based on the online application, grade transcripts, letters of recommendation, and student performance on an entrance examination to be taken at Columbia University on either April 10 or April 24, 2010. There is a \$20.00 testing fee that must accompany the application.

**ONLINE APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE SHP BY MARCH 3, 2010**

