

Why ISSP?

Students who participate in ISSP gain much more from the program than a powerful transcript. ISSP is designed to help prepare them for personal, social, and academic success as they embark on their college careers.

Intellectual Courage

ISSP exposes students to a variety of academic and creative experiences. Subsequently, students learn how to pursue a subject on their own and transfer that knowledge to other areas of study.

Academics

Students gain skills through ISSP that are directly applicable to their regular academic courses. The program also fosters critical and independent thinking to aid them as they pursue higher learning.

Creativity

ISSP invites students to embrace learning opportunities not provided in their regular class schedule, while enhancing their creative and problem-solving abilities.

Maturity and Responsibility

Students must balance the demands of a high school education with the additional challenges offered through ISSP. They become more open-minded, develop time management skills, accept set-backs as part of success, and grow to appreciate that learning is a lifelong process.

Empowerment

When students succeed in ISSP, they are empowered to pursue new opportunities. ISSP Coordinators help customize a course of study and experiences outside the classroom that fuel students' desire to learn and help them realize their true potential.

Prerequisites for ISSP Courses

- Recommendation of a teacher or counselor
- Interview with ISSP Coordinator
- Requirements on ISSP contract

Prerequisites for college courses through ISSP

- Must be a junior or senior
- Required PSAT/SAT scores and GPA (vary for each college)
- Interview with ISSP Coordinator
- Mandatory orientation
- College may require a placement test

ISSP Application Process

Students are screened between January and March for the next academic year. Teacher recommendations, grades, PSATs, SATs, TOEFL, demonstrated special projects and interviews are among the criteria.

Being a participant in the Independent Study and Seminar Program (ISSP) gave me the opportunity to jump-start my college education. The assistance of my advisor was exceptional. My ISSP Coordinator was always at my disposal. I received help in choosing a college course that was appropriate for me and registering. We had follow up meetings, where I would discuss my progress in the class. Through ISSP, I was also able to attend the Biomedical Science Careers Program, which benefited me greatly. I was taught the art of networking and learned about the different careers in the medical field. Because of this program, I was prepared as a freshman for college and ahead of other students.

—ISSP Student



Distinguishing talent. Developing leaders.

Independent Study and
Seminar Program
Est. 1967



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It is the mission of the Independent Study and Seminar Program to help students distinguish themselves in and out of the classroom by nurturing exceptional talent, engaging curiosity, and fostering self-confidence and originality. ISSP creates unique opportunities through independent study, college courses, and seminars that equip students to succeed in academics and the community.

ISSP PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

What is ISSP?

ISSP supports high performing, college-bound students by providing opportunities including college courses, leadership and career workshops, and academic and artistic programs. ISSP Coordinators work with students to find the opportunities that best fit their interests, strengths, and schedules, serving as their mentor along the way.

In ISSP's College Before College Program, coordinators guide students as they select and register for college classes. In addition, coordinators support students throughout their time in the college classes with weekly conferences and evaluations.

ISSP serves students who consistently excel in their studies, as well as providing incentives for all students to earn higher marks in order to take advantage of the program's benefits.

ISSP Summer and Special Programs

New Haven Public Schools partner with area colleges on programs including:

- UCONN Mentor Program
- Summer Arts Program-CCY at Wesleyan



Classroom

ISSP Coordinators work with students to determine the best potential fit for program participation based on individual skill sets, goals, and interests. For some, that might mean enrollment in Advanced Placement courses. Other students might take classes at Yale, Southern CT State University, Gateway Community College, or the University of New Haven. Each path is an opportunity for students to challenge themselves on all levels, and in doing so, potentially earn college credit.

Coursework is complimented by extracurricular activities such as:

- Yale Science Pathways
- Yale Peabody "Evolutions" Program
- The High Cooperative Language Program (HSCLP) at Yale



Today I am very grateful for the immense help my daughter received from ISSP. My daughter was able to attend college early through the UNH Outstanding High School Senior Program thanks to the advising provided by ISSP. The advisor was the best resource humanly possible and inspired, collaborated, and supported my daughter from start to finish in helping her with college courses. Programs and advisors such as these are needed for a better community to create a helpful and productive society.

-Mother of ISSP Senior

IS Courses and Projects

ISSP also offers the chance for students to pursue personal academic or creative interests across a wide range of studies. Students who want to learn more about a particular field or nurture an existing talent may collaborate with ISSP Coordinators and high school faculty to create an original course or project. A few examples of project areas include:

- Forensic Science
- Art: Focus on Nature
- Architecture
- Computer Science
- Creative Writing
- Cultural Studies

Seminars

Seminars and roundtables provide a unique opportunity to hear from and interact with educators, practitioners, and thought-leaders in a student's area of study. A partial list of topics is offered here:

- Philosophy
- Comparative Religions
- International Relations
- Human Geography
- American Film
- Rhetoric
- Housing Discrimination
- Career Workshops
- Achieving Success in College



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