

CHILD
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We Are The Future.

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SUMMER OF PROMISE

The Child First Summer of Promise (SOP) program is a replication of the Morehouse College Pre-Freshman Summer Program. In the replicated program, students will experience similar *rites of passage*, although the ultimate desired outcome for participants may not necessarily be enrollment at Morehouse, but at any number of other partnering colleges and universities.

The history of PSP presented below is offered to provide insight into the program beginnings and its approach to working with males in the short window of six weeks in the summer. It should be noted that unlike PSP, the Summer of Promise program is designed to be more inclusive in its approach engaging not only high school juniors and seniors, but also students who may be as early in the educational preparation as First Form. It is hoped that the benefits of an intensive summer experience that not only addresses academic, but also social and general character needs, and that ultimately transforms lives is transferable to other environments.

Brief History of Pre-Freshman Summer Program (PSP) 1987 - 2008

Founding & Purpose

PSP was founded in 1987 through a collaboration of ideas between then, Director of Admissions Sterling Hudson and the late Morehouse College president Dr. Hugh M. Gloster. The program was originally named the Early College Summer Program (ECSP) and was a collaborative program between Morehouse College and Spelman College. The purpose of ECSP was to attract the brightest and best African American male and female high school graduates to the top two HBCUs in the country where participants could take challenging college courses and participate in programs for enrichment and college-readiness.

The program was renamed the Morehouse College Pre-Freshman Summer Program during the 1990-1991 academic year. Under the leadership of then Morehouse president Dr. Leroy Keith, it was decided that the College should separate from ECSP, and develop a summer program that was focused exclusively on African American males, the male experience, and preparation for entry to Morehouse College. Although the primary purpose of PSP remained similar to the original program purpose, PSP was begun to add an additional focus on leadership and self-discipline

as keys to success at Morehouse and in college in general. In 1994, PSP adopted the mantra "Citizenship, Scholarship, Leadership...by example, every day!"

Program Expansion

The keen competition among colleges and universities for the brightest and best African American males inhibited the growth of PSP and limited enrollment to fifty students or fewer between the summers, 1991 – 1993. For the summer of 1994, in an effort to reduce accepted student melt and boost new student enrollment, PSP collaborated with the Office of Admissions to target select students who were admitted to the College for the fall 1994 semester *on probation*. Students admitted on probation typically did not meet the admissions requirements in either the high school GPA or the SAT or ACT categories. This decision proved to be fortuitous as the program enrolled nearly 80 students. Following an unexpected dip in the enrollment of first-time students in the fall of 2001, PSP, in the summer 2002, also targeted students who had been denied admission, but who met or exceeded at least one admission criterion. Denied students were challenged to attain an overall GPA of at least 2.50 in PSP in order for the Admissions Office to reconsider its decision. In general students referred to PSP by admissions officers were typically students who applied to Morehouse but who were either admitted on probation or denied admission to the College.

The enrollment of targeted probation students, and selected denied students in PSP continued through the summer of 2008 when PSP attained its highest ever enrollment of 147 participants. The 2008 participants also included 27 pre-college NROTC midshipmen, invited to PSP as an experiment with the U.S. Navy to determine if PSP could support pre-college preparation for larger numbers of pre-college midshipmen nationwide.

In addition to the anticipated growth through pre-college NROTC programming, PSP formalized its relationship with Project Identity in the summer 2007 when PSP participants interfaced formally with PI Summer Institute participants. Through activities that included chess tournaments and informal mentoring, the intended link between the two programs began to grow. By the summer 2008, five former PI participants were admitted to PSP as Morehouse pre-freshmen, further evidence of increased bonding between the programs.

Academic Program Offerings & Requirements

Originally, PSP offered academic preparation in 6 to 9 semester hours from the following courses:

English 051 (Remedial)	3 Hours (not for graduation credit)
Math 051 (Remedial)	3 Hours (not for graduation credit)
Reading 098 (Remedial)	3 Hours (not for graduation credit)
Reading 099 (Remedial)	3 Hours (not for graduation credit)
English 101 (Composition)	3 Hours
Math 100 (College Algebra)	3 Hours
Math 153 (Pre-Calculus)	3 Hours
Math 251 (Calculus I)	4 Hours

All students took at least 6 hours, with an English and Mathematics course. Test scores on the SAT-Verbal (Critical Reading) or ACT-English scores; and, SAT-Math or

ACT-Math determined class placement. The Department of Mathematics also administered a departmental placement examination through summer 2007 to support the placement process. In 2007, the General Education Department provided oversight and examinations for course placement in PSP.

In order that all participants take at least 9 hours (10 if Math placement was Calculus), PSP added History 111 in 1996, and the additional 3-hour course option of Sociology 101 in 1998.

Following the policy of the Summer Academy, students were required to earn a "B" (3.00) or better in order to receive Morehouse College credit for classes taken in PSP.

PSP also required mandatory tutorials, held each evening following dinner from 6:30 PM until 9:30 PM Sunday – Thursday. Tutor-Counselors (Morehouse students and recent graduates) were hired to design and implement the Tutorial Program and to live in the residence hall as on-site tutors. Ultimately, participants were expected to learn new academic and personal behaviors from the Tutor-Counselors who also served as "big brothers" to participants.

Other Activities and Events

On Tuesdays from 3-5PM participants gathered in Sale Hall auditorium for the Pre-College Orientation Series. These sessions, led by Morehouse administrators and faculty, were designed to inform and enlighten participants about first-year success strategies and techniques.

On Thursdays from 3-5PM, participants gathered in Sale Hall auditorium for the African American Male Focus Sessions. These sessions were designed to present information and to stimulate dialogue about issues confronting African American and other males of color in this country and worldwide. In the summer 2008 a Morehouse psychology professor was hired to coordinate and lead the AAMFS in order to add the perspective of the Morehouse Male Initiative to these sessions.

PSP offered historical tours of the City of Atlanta and at least one out-of-town trip to a historical/recreational site.

Recreational activities included basketball, flag football, the PSP Step Team, chess, creative writing and the Spoken Word. Participants were also encouraged to attend the ecumenical Summer Academy worship services, and to participate in the Summer Academy choir.

Other Expectations

PSP participants were held to the same standards of discipline and behavior as enrolled Morehouse students—those becoming a Morehouse Man. Rules and regulations in this regard were enforced aggressively but with compassion.

Program Outcomes

PSP has experienced remarkable outcomes during the 21-year period, 1987 – 2008. Consistently throughout this period, PSP participants have persisted and graduated

at higher rates than the Morehouse student body at large. Most recently, for the period 2003 – 2008, the program achieved the following outcomes.

SUMMER	H.S. SENIORS	SUCCESS RATE	MC ENROLLED	PERSIST RATE 2003	GRAD RATE 2003
2003	80	93%	73		
2004	82	100%	78	99% (72)	
2005	88	97%	83	96% (70)	
2006	98	98%	94	96% (70)	
2007	102	97%	96	93% (68)	66% (48)
2008	143	97%	136	93% (68)*	83% (61)**

Success Rate = Percentage of seniors who successfully completed the summer program.

MC Enrolled = Number of successful students who enrolled in Morehouse College at the end of the program.

Persistence Rate = Percentage of original 2003 cohort still enrolled at Morehouse.

Grad Rate = Percentage of cohort graduating in 4 years (2007) and graduating in 5 years (2008).

* = Total graduated and remaining students enrolled from original 2003 cohort.

** = Total graduated 2007 plus 2008 from original 2003 cohort.