



Belin-Blank Center

University of Iowa
600 Blank Honors Center
Iowa City, Iowa 52242
319-3345-6148
Fax 319-335-5151

Blank Summer Institute Guide to Nominating Students

About BSI

The Blank Summer Institute for the Arts & Sciences (BSI) is a prestigious one-week residential summer program for 60 of Iowa's most talented 8th-grade students, nominated by their schools. BSI provides exceptionally talented students with an intensive and advanced educational experience designed to enhance their intellectual and social growth. Each student selected for BSI will receive a \$1000 Blank Scholarship to cover most of the Institute's \$1,200 costs.

Who to Nominate

Nominated students DO NOT have to be enrolled in a talented and gifted program. We encourage developing a nomination process that supports your school in increasing access for students to advanced opportunities by identifying students with domain-specific talents or deep interests.

All nominated students should be highly motivated in the area of nomination and possess emotional maturity. Seek out a diverse representation of talented 8th grade students. Consider nominating artistic students who may not be winning all the art awards, but may be constantly doodling, making collages, or experimenting with how they express their personality and care for others. Consider nominating leaders who take charge during the group activities, are members of the student council, the quiet moderators of hallway disputes, or the boisterous organizers of their peers. Consider nominating problem-solvers who are sensitive to larger issues, or forward-thinking students who show potential for using alternative processes.

In addition, some of the special qualities that are desirable for each of the courses are:

Art and Activism

- Awareness of social issues and appreciation for social relationships
- Enjoyment of the artistic process
- Ability to express and convey ideas through visual arts, drama, dance or music

Leadership for Student Who Want to Make a Difference

- Strong communication skills
- Ability to convey vision and purpose
- Willingness to empower others and understand human nature

Solving the Grand Challenges of Sustainability

- Inquisitive mind
- Good problem-solving skills
- Outstanding performance in STEM classes/activities