Summer Programs

Bowdoin College summer programs provide an opportunity for a variety of people to enjoy the College’s facilities and to benefit from the expertise of Bowdoin faculty and staff during the nonacademic portion of the year. Summer programs consist of educational seminars, professional conferences, sports clinics, specialized workshops, and occasional social events that are appropriate to the College’s overall mission as an educational institution and as a member of the Maine community.

The longest-running summer program involving members of the Bowdoin faculty and the longest-running summer program in its area of study in the United States is the Infrared Spectroscopy Course. Initiated at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1950, the program moved to Bowdoin in 1972. Over three thousand scientists have come to campus to work with many of the original staff.

Upward Bound, which began at Bowdoin in 1965, is one of over five hundred similar programs hosted by educational institutions across the country. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, these programs are intended to provide low-income high school students with the skills and motivation necessary for success in higher education.

Founded in 1964, and separately incorporated in 1998, the Bowdoin International Music Festival comprises a music school, several concert series, and the Festival of Contemporary Music. Approximately two hundred gifted performers in their teens and twenties from more than twenty countries participate each summer in a concentrated six-week program of instrumental, chamber music, and composition studies with a faculty composed of teacher-performers from the world’s leading conservatories.

Each year additional camps are offered by members of the athletic staff in baseball, diving, tennis, basketball, field hockey, lacrosse, squash, soccer, swimming, and track. A day camp for children entering grades 2–9 is based in Farley Field House, and an art camp for youth is held in Bowdoin’s Visual Arts Center.

In addition to the three long-term programs described above, other programs brought to campus by Bowdoin faculty, staff, and outside associations attract several thousand people to the College each summer.

Persons interested in holding a conference at Bowdoin should contact the Office of Events and Summer Programs, which schedules all summer activities and coordinates dining, overnight accommodations, meeting space, audiovisual services, and other amenities. For more information on camps, workshops, and conferences, visit the Web site at http://www.bowdoin.edu/events/summerprograms.