

USC's Neighborhood Academic Initiative (NAI) is a rigorous, seven-year pre-college enrichment program designed to prepare low-income neighborhood students for admission to a college or university.

Those who complete the program, meet USC's competitive admission requirements and choose to attend USC are rewarded with a full 4.5-year financial package, minus loans.

The program was established in 1989 and enrolled its first scholars in the 1991-92 academic year. Pulling together private as well as corporate resources, the NAI encompasses three major components: the USC Pre-College Enrichment Academy, the Family Development Institute and the Retention Program.



For scholars to be eligible for the NAI scholarships, their parents must commit to attending 80 percent of these seminars, which meet on the University Park campus for four hours on Saturday mornings about 12 times a year.

While the Neighborhood Academic Initiative's primary goal is to get neighborhood students into USC with a full financial package, the obligation doesn't stop there. The Retention Component helps ensure that a student's hard work getting into USC or another institution results in a degree.



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USC Neighborhood
Academic Initiative

USC Academy Program

The flagship program of NAI, the Pre-College Enrichment Academy provides enhanced educational services to middle- and high-school students with the goal helping them acquire the academic skills they need to flourish in a college or university setting.

The academy offers enhanced classes at USC on weekday mornings, the Saturday Academy, after-school tutoring, remedial and enrichment sessions, workshops on time management and study skills, PSAT and SAT¹ preparation, cultural field trips and recreational activities.

Before school each day throughout the year, NAI scholars meet on the University Park campus from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. for enhanced classes taught by teachers from their home schools.



The scholars receive full academic credit for these courses, which cover the following subject matter:

- Grade 7: Pre-algebra (students must complete Algebra 1 prior to graduation from 8th grade)
- Grades 7 and 8: Language arts
- Grade 9: English and geometry
- Grade 10: English and algebra
- Grade 11: American literature expository composition and math analysis/trigonometry
- Grade 12: Advanced-placement English literature and either advanced-placement statistics or calculus



Supplementing these early-morning classes, NAI scholars attend the Saturday Academy, which meets for four hours every Saturday to provide enriched as well as remedial instruction in English/language arts and mathematics.

Courses incorporate lectures, tutoring and small-group exercises, and are taught by professional teachers, paid and volunteer tutors and teaching assistants from USC's student body, and NAI alumni.

In addition, peer tutoring and cooperative learning activities maximize opportunities for scholars to learn from one another and reinforce the knowledge they have gained. NAI scholars also receive two hours per week of structured after-school tutoring.

