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# AIMS TIMES

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## Director's Chair



**Dr. Doris Sarr, Ph.D.**  
Program Director

Happy Halloween  
Month AIMS Family!

Even though you are past the age of Trick-or-Treating (I guess), I'm sure many of you will be visiting some of the Haunted attractions this month! My daughter is looking forward to going to Talon Falls again this year to be scared out of her wits! I do not get it? You pay all of this money to go and scream and cry? Ha ha! Well anyway... have fun!

As the weather begins

to turn cooler, remember to bundle up! I would hate for you to get the sniffles! This month we are trying to collect all of your grade reports. Please make sure that a copy has been sent to the AIMS Main Office ASAP. We appreciate your help with this matter. Next month we will be hosting our on campus Workshop and Bridge Workshop on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Make plans to attend today. Next week, we may be announcing a special trip immediately following the Saturday meeting to a fun City overnight for the students who made the A and B Honor Roll! Be on the lookout!

I would like to ask for

your assistance in identifying new students for the AIMS Family. If you know of any friends or fellow students who you feel will benefit for our Program, please have them to fill out an application or contact us here in the AIMS Office for additional information.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Doris



## Coordinators' Corner



Happy Fall AIMS Family!

The Academic Year is up and in full swing, planning for the summer program is well underway, and the AIMS Fall College Tour is just around the corner...what a sure sign that Fall is here!

I hope you students and counselors are having a great academic year. We here in the AIMS Office look for high achievements from our students because this is what sets us apart from many other programs like ours. Remember, if you need help, whether it be tutoring or counseling, Dr. Sarr, Evan, and I are here to help you.

We need your help to prepare for the summer program. Seniors, please send in all the information that was mailed to you so that we can begin the Admissions and Housing Processes for your Bridge Year. If we don't receive your information in a timely manner, you will not be accepted into the Bridge Program. DON'T procrastinate, Senior year is the worst time to do this.

Juniors, begin gearing up for the ACT and please use your waivers to take the test at least once this academic year. It's important for you to see what you may need to

improve upon before taking the test again early in your senior year.

Help us, help you! We love reaching out to you and lending a helping hand when needed. I'll be trying to hit some of you up on Facebook and via e-mail to check in. Speaking of Facebook, if you haven't seen *The Social Network*, go see it...great movie! Ok, enough for now!

*Stephen D. Keene,*

Coordinator  
AIMS I



## Coordinators' Corner

Hey everyone!!

Can you believe that it is October already? Bring on the cool weather! You are near the end of the first quarter and I hope school is going well for you. When you get your grade reports, take note of any classes that may need some extra attention (I will help you with this). Don't forget about the AIMS website ... there is a link under "Resources" for FREE, LIVE tutoring that is available every day from 2pm-10pm. You don't even have to leave your computer. Pretty sweet, eh?

Good luck to all of you who

are taking the ACT or SAT this month! Go get 'em. Also on our website under "Resources" are some links to sites that will make you better prepared and give you an edge over other test takers. Oh, and sophomores ... enjoy the college tours! Take advantage of this time and ask ANY questions that you have. I wish I could join you all, but the rigors of graduate school will be keeping on home base.

Keep in touch! I always say this, but I mean it. Got Facebook? Add me. Don't use Facebook? I've got email and a phone. I'm not just some guy that works in the AIMS Office. I'm here for YOU. Without you, I

wouldn't be here. Let me know if you have any questions about AIMS, school, life ... anything at all ... that is why I'm here.

Until next time ... study hard, stay healthy, and *be* the change.

*"Be the change you want to see in the world"*—Gandhi.

*Evan O'Neal,*

Coordinator  
AIMS II



# Fall



# Careers: Astronauts



## Job Description

Lots of kids dream of being an astronaut but may not realize how intense the program is or what the actual responsibilities are. An astronaut boards a spacecraft to fly on missions for very specific purposes. Astronauts work as part of a crew and therefore have specific responsibilities aboard the spacecraft.

Astronauts go through very specialized and intense training to prepare for these space missions. They must pass certain physical requirements as well as comprehensive academic and mental exams. Astronauts fly to various destinations to conduct research and experiments. These missions may vary and therefore the actual focus and responsibilities of the astronaut will change with each mission.

There are various roles that an astronaut may serve as a part of the spacecraft's crew, ranging from a mission specialist to a commander. The more experience and background that an astronaut has, the more responsibilities that astronaut may have. Not only are astronauts responsible for fulfilling the terms, or purpose, of their mission, but they are also responsible for ensuring safety of the spacecraft and the crew. They help each member of their crew to maintain normal functions and to stay safe to work through the missions. Astronauts often will observe the environment they fly to, taking something from there or bringing something back there.

Astronauts must go through training for each mission that they serve on. They must ensure that they maintain appropriate physical shape, as that comes into play for successfully flying on the spacecraft and carrying out the missions.

## Training/Educational

### Requirements

Though the minimum educational requirement for an astronaut is a bachelor's degree, there is usually a more specific focus preferred than that. Though it is not necessarily always spelled out, it is preferred if an astronaut has a bachelor's degree in a space-related focus, such as math, biology or some other form of science, engineering, or even psychology. Many astronauts have advanced degrees.

The training program is the most intense part of the requirement for astronauts. Astronauts must be in excellent physical shape, and this may be a focus of their training program. They must pass physical exams to be selected for a mission. Astronauts must follow a very stringent training program as set forth by NASA that involves comprehension exams, physical exams, and tests knowledge and abilities in a variety of different areas. Passing these exams and the overall training program is an extremely important measure to meet. Astronauts will be trained in simulation exercises so that they can get the feel of being in space, and so that they are prepared for the work that lies ahead of them. Initial and ongoing training is an extremely important part of the job as an astronaut.

### How to Get Hired

The best way to get hired initially is to show great promise in a related field. The educational requirement is part of the equation, as is working in the field. It can help to work previously in a field such as engineering or piloting, if one wants to become a mission specialist. To be hired as an astronaut pilot or mission commander, actual flying experience and a solid background in

a related field will become an important consideration. As an astronaut gains more experience, she or he may move on to different roles with increased responsibility.

## Job Prospects, Employment Outlook, and Career Development

Though it is a rather competitive field, there is always a need for astronauts. Once in the field, there is great chance of career advancement and stability. Once astronauts are selected to work as part of a crew, that experience becomes quite valuable in getting hired and selected for further missions.

## Working Environment

The working environment for an astronaut is unlike any other profession. Though astronauts may spend a majority of their time in classrooms, simulation environments, or gyms to improve upon their physical requirements, astronauts also spend part of their time in actual spacecrafts. It's important to remember that the time spent on missions is minimal compared to the actual preparation, but all of the work that astronauts put in is fundamental to that time spent on missions.

Astronauts may work long hours, particularly when they are on missions—up to 100 hours a week in some instances. Astronauts must be able to stay calm in what can prove to be stressful environments. They must be focused on safety and on ensuring that they are physically and mentally prepared for their missions.

## Salary and Benefits

Though the average salary for an astronaut is around \$55,000, this can be a bit deceptive as salaries actually fall into rather wide range. Astronauts can work in a variety of different positions and therefore the salary can be anywhere from \$27,000 for those just starting out to over \$80,000 for those with great experience and responsibilities. Astronauts receive excellent benefits, including medical coverage, paid vacation, tuition reimbursement, pension savings account, and potentially even more.



# How to Write an Essay: Part 1

## Establish Your Topic

1. Your teacher may assign you a topic or ask you to choose from among a few topics. The assignment may contain certain key words that will suggest the content and structure of your essay. For example, you may be asked to

Analyze

Argue

Compare and contrast

Describe

Discuss

Summarize

If you do not understand what you are being asked to do, check with your teacher.

2. You may be asked to find a topic on your own. Most people find this difficult. Give yourself plenty of time to think about what you'd like to do. Trying to answer questions you have about a particular subject may lead you to a good paper idea.

- What subject(s) are you interested in?
- What interests you most about a particular subject?
- Is there anything you wonder about or are puzzled about with regard to that subject?

3. Be sure your topic is

narrow enough so that you can write about it in detail in the number of pages that you are allowed. For example, say you are asked to write a 1-page essay about someone in your family. Since you only have a limited number of pages, you may want to focus on one particular characteristic of that person, or one particular incident from that person's life, rather than trying to write about that person's entire life. Having a narrow focus will help you write a more interesting paper.

**Too general:** *My sister.*

**Revised:** *My sister is my best friend.*

Similarly, you may be asked to write a 5-page paper about volcanoes. Again, since you only have a limited number of pages, you may choose to focus on one particular volcano or one particular eruption, rather than trying to talk about volcanoes in general.

**Too general:** *Volcanoes of the world.*

**Revised:** *The eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in June 1991.*

4. One method for narrowing down your topic is called **brainstorming**. Brainstorming is a useful way to let ideas you didn't know you had come to the surface.
- Sit down with a pencil and paper, or at your computer, and write whatever comes into your head about your topic, no matter how confused or disorganized.

- Keep writing for a short but specific amount of time, say 3–5 minutes. Don't stop to change what you've written or to correct spelling or grammar errors.

- After a few minutes, read through what you have written. You will probably throw out most of it, but some of what you've written may give you an idea you can develop.

- Do some more brainstorming and see what else you can come up with.

## Organize Your Ideas

Develop an outline to organize your ideas. An outline shows your main ideas and the order in which you are going to write about them. [Click here](#) to see some sample outlines.

- Write down all the main ideas.
- List the subordinate ideas below the main ideas.
- Avoid any repetition of ideas.



# Halloween Holiday Trivia

- Orange and black are Halloween colors because orange is associated with the Fall harvest and black is associated with darkness and death.
- Jack o' Lanterns originated in Ireland where people placed candles in hollowed-out turnips to keep away spirits and ghosts on the Samhain holiday.
- Pumpkins also come in white, blue and green. Great for unique monster carvings!
- Halloween was brought to North America by immigrants from Europe who would celebrate the harvest around a bonfire, share ghost stories, sing, dance and tell fortunes.
- Tootsie Rolls were the first wrapped penny candy in America.
- The ancient Celts thought that spirits and ghosts roamed the countryside on Halloween night. They began wearing masks and costumes to avoid being recognized as human.
- Halloween candy sales average about 2 billion dollars annually in the United States.
- Chocolate candy bars top the list as the most popular candy for trick-or-treaters with Snickers #1.
- Halloween is the 2nd most commercially successful holiday, with Christmas being the first.
- Bobbing for apples is thought to have originated from the roman harvest festival that honors Pomona, the goddess of fruit trees.
- Black cats were once believed to be witch's familiars who protected their powers.



## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS!

**Emanuel Abbage**

**JaCorri Beasley**

**India Fair**

**Dazique Gillespie**

**Jared Guthrie**

**Adam Henderson**

**Keonia Purefide**

**Dr. Doris Sarr**

**Pa-Lamin Sarr**

**Amanda Waters**



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**Evan O'Neal, Coordinator AIMS II**

**Gail Woolridge, Administrative**

**Assistant, AIMS I**

**Kalyn Gensic, Administrative**

**Assistant, AIMS II**

# **AIMS 2010-2011 Schedule At-A-Glance**

## **October**

### **2010**

10th—14th AIMS Fall College Tour—TN/AL

23rd ACT TEST DATE

29th AIMS Application Deadline 1

## **November 2010**

20th Bridge Workshop & General Student Meeting

10:00am—1:00pm

1:00pm MSU Football Game (Optional)

## **February 2011**

5th AIMS Financial Aid Workshop 9am-1pm

Blackburn Science Room 251

## **March 2011**

18th Application Deadline 2

## **April 2011**

16th AIMS Orientation 10am-1:00pm Blackburn 251

## **May 2011**

25th—28th Summer Staff Retreat & Training Eminence, MO

30th Bridge Students/Residential Staff Move-In Day

31st Bridge Classes Begin

## **June 2011**

3rd—5th Bridge Weekend

12th Undergraduate Move-In Day

24th—26th Annual Bridge St. Louis Trip

29th Bridge Graduation

## **July 2011**

1st Closing Symposium/Move-Out Day

5th—9th End of Year Trip