

PROGRAM GUIDE

General Surgery

Explore surgical principles and patient care for procedures.

1-Week

Grades 9-12

Summer 2027



Program overview

Outset's General Surgery Program gives students an exciting first look at the fast-paced world of surgery. Throughout the week, participants explore what draws physicians to this field: performing precise procedures, solving complex problems in real time, and providing critical patient care.

Students will gain an understanding of not only what surgeons do, but why this path requires skill, focus, and a deep commitment to patients.

Alongside this broader exploration, students take part in hands-on simulation labs and physician-led sessions that introduce the technical skills and training milestones involved in the field.

Combined with Outset's Path to Pre-Med curriculum, which builds in training on the AAMC's core competencies for entering medical students, the program helps students gain clarity about the path ahead and whether general surgery fits their interests and strengths. Participants leave with new confidence and a clearer sense of where they might want to go next.



LENGTH
1-Week

WHO IT'S FOR
Grades 9–12

DATES
June–August 2027

TUITION
\$2,995 All campuses with exceptions of UCLA and Columbia

\$3,195 UCLA and Columbia

INCLUDES
Housing, meals, and all programming. Financial aid available.

CAMPUSES
UNC Chapel Hill, UCLA, Columbia University, University of Washington, University of Michigan, Vanderbilt University

See current availability.

Apply now

Schedule a call

Hands-on simulations

Students get a firsthand look at what surgeons do, using medical-school-level tools and models under guided supervision. Activities vary by campus and week, but examples of activities may include:



Suturing & Microsuturing Practice

Learn fundamental surgical stitching on simulation materials used in medical training.

Intubation Practice

Practice airway management on manikins, focusing on proper procedure and patient safety.

Laparoscopy Simulation

Use laparoscopic tools on training models to explore minimally invasive surgery.

Scrub-In Demonstration

Practice proper OR protocol to see how surgical teams operate together.

Important Note: Specific activities vary by campus, program week, and instructors.

Lectures and Q&A with physicians

Students attend sessions led by physicians, including surgeons and specialists from other fields, who share firsthand perspectives on medical careers.



Example topics:

What a surgeon actually does day to day

How physicians choose their specialties

Training milestones, from college to residency and beyond

Real stories from the OR and clinic

Student-driven Q&A about careers, school, challenges, and lifestyle

These sessions help students better understand whether a career in medicine and specifically general surgery could be a good long-term fit for them.

Faculty & physicians

We hire faculty, residents, fellows, and physicians to lead our sessions and share career insights. These teachers are finalized a few weeks before your program.

Program leadership

Our leadership team combines experience in pre-med education and student programming to create a hands-on, inspiring experience for future healthcare leaders.

Meet our team

— IN EVERY OUTSET PROGRAM

Path to Pre-Med

Every student takes Outset's "Path to Pre-Med" curriculum. Designed by pre-med advisors, it maps the path to becoming a doctor and builds in training on the AAMC's core competencies for entering medical students.



Map Your Medical Journey

See the full timeline and financial picture.

Plan Your Courses

Know what classes to take and in what order.

Pick the Perfect College

Find the school that sets you up for pre-med success.

Tackle Pre-Med Challenges

Learn how to handle the toughest college hurdles.

Ace Hard Classes

Master strategies for challenging pre-med courses.

Gap Year Options

Weigh pros and cons of a gap year before med school.

Conquer the MCAT

What it is, why it matters, and prep tips.

Master Med School Applications

Learn the process and how to stand out.

Hear what students take away from our curriculum and sessions.

[Watch the video](#)

A day at Outset

[Watch video](#)

Below is an **example** of what a student's day at Outset might look like. Each summer we tailor activities to each campus, blending labs, workshops, and evening events that bring the program to life.

8:00 – 8:45 AM	Grab a healthy breakfast at the on-campus dining halls with other students
9:00 – 9:45 AM	Kick off the day mapping your path, from choosing the right school to mastering the MCAT
10:00 – 10:45 AM	Get a look at your education path ahead, from costs and timelines to what to expect during life as a med student
11:00 – 11:45 AM	Discover smart strategies to crush tough classes, balance it all, and stand out when it counts
12:00 – 2:30 PM	Enjoy lunch with your cohort at the dining halls or out, then join staff-led games, sports, and activities around campus
2:30 – 4:30 PM	Practice hands-on clinical skills in a medical school simulation lab with physician teachers
4:30 – 5:30 PM	Hear from physicians and guest speakers about healthcare in action
6:00 – 7:00 PM	Refuel and connect with new friends over dinner at a local restaurant
7:30 – 9:30 PM	Join our evening activity led by staff: movie nights, bowling, local excursions, and more!
9:30 – 11:00 PM	Games, shower, and relax in your campus dorm before lights out at 10:30 or 11:00 PM

Is it the right fit?

This week is designed to help your student find out whether a specialty fits. Realizing it isn't the right one is a useful answer too.

Are there grade limitations for General Surgery?

No. The General Surgery program is open to rising 9th–12th graders.

What kind of student is a good fit for General Surgery?

Students who are focused, curious, and excited by hands-on medical challenges. We look for applicants who show attention to detail, problem-solving skills, and enthusiasm for learning surgical techniques in a high-energy environment.

Will more dates or campuses open?

We may add dates and campuses for Summer 2027. If you don't see the option you want, apply and check with our Admissions Team for the latest availability.

Can I switch specialties later?

You can switch programs up to 2 months before your start date if space is still available in another program on your campus. Space is not guaranteed, so please contact our Admissions Team ASAP if you have this request.

Can I do back-to-back programs in different specialties?

Yes. Back-to-back programs are a great way to meet more peers, explore other specialties, and reinforce core learning. Note that if you stay on the same campus, activities may repeat and you will take the Path to Pre-Med course again with your new week's cohort.

Apply now

Talk with Admissions

Safety and supervision

Student safety and well-being guide every aspect of our program design. Each campus is staffed by a trained, professional team who live alongside students and provide 24/7 supervision.



8:1

student-to-staff ratio at most campuses

24/7

staff presence in the residence halls

All

staff background-checked and trained by Outset

Supervised on and off campus

Staff live in the same residence halls as students. No student, regardless of age, may be off campus or in a restricted area without supervision. Host campuses are typically monitored by campus security as well.

Experienced leadership at every campus

Each campus is led by a dedicated Camp Director with years of experience running youth programs. Residential counselors are typically college students who know the campus well.

Health and medication

Staff check on students' physical health and emotional wellbeing throughout the week. Medications are declared in advance, kept secure, and given at the correct time daily.

If something goes wrong

Parents are notified of concerning symptoms. In an emergency, staff accompany your student to the nearest medical center and stay until a parent or guardian arrives.

Cost and logistics

[See all FAQs](#)

\$2,995

Tuition for all campuses with exceptions of UCLA and Columbia

\$3,195

UCLA and Columbia



What does tuition include?

24/7 staff, dorms, meals, 20+ hours of academics, speakers, evening activities, and activity transport. Travel to and from campus is not included.

Is there financial aid?

Yes. If you need financial aid, please indicate this on your online application and fill out the aid information. We are not able to guarantee aid, but we do take every aid request seriously.

What are rooms and housing like?

Outset partners with college residence halls. Rooms are shared with 1–2 students of the same gender, with shared bathrooms. Single rooms are available for an additional fee; please check with our team for up-to-date cost and availability.

Is there a deadline? How do I apply?

There is no deadline. We have rolling admissions and a simple 4-step admissions process. Apply online, and you'll hear from us within 2 business days.

[Apply now](#)

[How admissions works](#)

HEAR FROM OUR ALUMNI
& FAMILIES



4.8



208+ reviews

★ Trustpilot



The trusted leader for teen career exploration.

Outset is trusted by 1,000+ families each summer for high-quality teen summer programs. Read our reviews and see why we're the leading brand for summer education.



Read Reviews



GENERAL SURGERY

SUMMER 2027 10

Not sure which specialty is right for you?

See program availability
by campus on our
website.

Explore programs

Apply now

Anesthesiology

Learn how anesthesia supports surgeries and patient safety.

Cardiology

Study the heart, blood vessels, and cardiovascular care.

Dentistry

Study oral health, dental procedures, and patient care.

Dermatology

Study skin health, conditions, and treatments.

Emergency Medicine

Understand fast-paced care for urgent and acute conditions.

General Medicine

Explore the fundamentals of care, diagnosis, and treatment.

General Surgery

Explore surgical principles and patient care for procedures.

Neurosurgery

Explore surgical care for the brain, spine, and nervous system.

Nursing

Explore patient care and the role of nurses on care teams.

OB-GYN

Study women's health, pregnancy, and childbirth.

Oncology

Learn how cancer is diagnosed, treated, and managed.

Orthopedic Surgery

Study musculoskeletal system care, bones, joints, and injuries.

Pediatrics

Focus on healthcare of children from infancy to adolescence.

Plastic Surgery

Explore reconstructive and cosmetic surgical care.

Psychiatry

Focus on mental health assessment and treatment.

Research

Investigate diseases and treatments.

Global Health: Barcelona

Explore medicine in a global context.



Ready for a week at Outset?

Have questions or need to follow up on your admissions process? Schedule time with our Admissions Team.

Apply now

Schedule a call

EMAIL

admissions@joinoutset.com

SOCIAL

Follow us
[@outsetcamps](https://www.instagram.com/outsetcamps)