Outset

PROGRAM GUIDE

Neurosurgery

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

1-Week | Grades 10–12 | Summer 2027



NEUROSURGERY

Program overview

Outset's Neurosurgery Program gives students a meaningful first look at one of the most challenging and impactful careers in medicine. Throughout the week, participants explore what draws physicians to neurosurgery: problem-solving under pressure, caring for complex conditions, and working at the intersection of science and innovation.

Students will gain an understanding of not only what neurosurgeons do, but why this path requires discipline, curiosity, 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, the program helps students gain clarity about the academic path ahead and whether neurosurgery aligns with their interests and strengths. Participants leave with new confidence, deeper insight into medical careers, and a clearer sense of where they might want to go next.



AT A GLANCE

LENGTH
1-Week

WHO IT'S FOR
Grades 10–12

DATES
June–August 2027

TUITION

$2,995 All campuses with exception 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

See current availability

Apply now

Schedule a call

Hands-on simulations

Students get a firsthand look at what neurosurgeons practice, 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.

Scrub-In Demonstration

Practice proper OR protocol and prep to understand how surgical teams operate together.

Burr Hole Drilling on Cranial Models

Use surgical drills on specialized training models to understand how neurosurgeons relieve pressure or access the skull.

Spinal Hardware Placement

Work with spinal models to place screws or rods, seeing how neurosurgeons stabilize the spine.

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

Lectures and Q&A with physicians

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



Example topics:

- What a neurosurgeon 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 neurosurgery 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



All students participate in Outset's "**Path to Pre-Med"** curriculum. Designed by pre-med advisors, it demystifies the educational and professional path to becoming a doctor and helps students understand what it takes, before they start.

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

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

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 Neurosurgery?

Yes, the Neurosurgery program is for rising 10th–12th graders only. If you are a 9th grader, please see the other specialty options on page 11.

What kind of student is a good fit for Neurosurgery?

Students who are mature, motivated, and genuinely curious about one of the most rigorous medical specialties. We look for applicants who show early dedication, strong follow-through, and excitement for a challenging learning environment.

How competitive is the Neurosurgery program?

Neurosurgery is one of our more selective programs due to high academic and professional standards. If you're unsure about your fit, we encourage you to speak with your Admissions Representative for guidance.

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

EVERY OUTSET PROGRAM

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.

EVERY OUTSET PROGRAM

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







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.

hosa future health professionals

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

NCHSE National Consortium for Health Science Education



Read Reviews





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.

Medical Research
Investigate diseases and treatments.

Outset Abroad: Barcelona
Explore medicine in a global context.



Outset

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

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