

Pathfinders: Career Discovery Program

Pathfinders is a **3-session**, one-on-one mentorship program that lets middle school and high school students take **3 careers or academic subjects** on a test-drive.

Pathfinders is designed to give students exposure to a diversity of college majors through connecting them with experts who are devoting their careers to those disciplines. Our students walk away from the program with a clearer sense of their career and academic interests, ideas and next steps for further exploration, a 400-word reflection paper on their learnings, as well as a written diagnostic on their passion discovery journey so far from a trained professional.



What students get out of this program

- 1. Exposure to experts in 3 chosen disciplines
- **2. Student-generated ideas** for further exploration in each of the 3 disciplines
- 3. Access to top experts who are also trained educators
- 4. 1 Guided reflection session with trained educator to identify strengths and interests of the student
- 5. 1 written "Passion Diagnostic Report" assembled by Polygence educator that assesses the strengths, interests, and areas of growth for the student



Apply now here

Tuition: \$595 / 3 sessions + 1 Passion Diagnostic session

- 3 sessions with 3 different career experts
- 1 Passion Diagnostic reflection session with a Polygence educator

Questions? Reach out to pathfinders@polygence.org



Sample Program Composition 1

Biology Pathfinders Careers in Biology



Session 1Neuroscience

Session 2Microbiology

Session 3Cancer Biology

Session 4Passion Diagnostic
Session



Rahul PatelPhD Candidate
at UNC Chapel Hill



Emily SmithPhD Candidate
at UCLA in microbiology



Ali Massa
PhD Candidate at Dartmouth
in cancer biology



With Polygence Educator

- A day in the life of a neuroscientist
- How did Rahul realize he wanted to become a neuroscientist?
- What research is Rahul doing? What questions is he thinking about?
- What resources should you look at to dive deeper?

- A day in the life of a microbiologist
- How did Emily realize she wanted to become a microbiologist?
- What research is Emily doing? What questions is she thinking about?
- What resources should you look at to dive deeper?

- A day in the life of a cancer biologist
- How did Ali realize she wanted to become a cancer biologist?
- What research is Ali doing now? What questions is she thinking about?
- What resources should you look at to dive deeper?

400-word reflection paper on ideas for future research projects and further exploration

Students will also receive a written Passion Diagnostic Report after the session that:

- Assesses their strengths and their interests
- Identifies potential career paths and next steps
- Recommends programs and other ways for the student to continue their path of discovery



Sample Program Composition 2

Pathfinders
3 Different Careers



Session 1
History

Session 2Environmental Science

Session 3Cancer Biology

Session 4Passion Diagnostic
Session



Nora Lessersohn
PhD Candidate at University
College London
in Middle Eastern History



Matt Bejtlich
Researcher at Brown/
RISD in Sustainability and
Environmental Science



Ali Massa
PhD Candidate
at Dartmouth
in cancer biology



With Polygence Educator

- A day in the life of a historian
- How did Nora realize she wanted to become a historian?
- What research is she doing? What questions is she thinking about?
- What resources should you look at to dive deeper?

- A day in the life of an environmental scientist
- How did Matt realize he wanted to become an environmental scientist?
- What research is he doing? What questions is he thinking about?
- What resources should you look at to dive deeper?

- A day in the life of a cancer biologist
- How did Ali realize she wanted to become a cancer biologist?
- What research is Ali doing now? What questions is she thinking about?
- What resources should you look at to dive deeper?

400-word reflection paper on ideas for future research projects and further exploration

Students will also receive a written Passion Diagnostic Report after the session that:

- Assesses their strengths and their interests
- Identifies potential career paths and next steps
- Recommends programs and other ways for the student to continue their path of discovery