



Greetings, students and parents,

The Erie City Mission's Urban University Youth Program empowers 7th-12th grade students in Erie County toward servant leadership through a variety of experiences that include career exploration, academic enrichment, mentorship, service learning, and faith formation.

Steps to apply:

- Parent and student: review course schedule and program contract (see below).
 - Program spots are limited. Before applying, please carefully consider the schedule commitment of each course. You will be expected to be in attendance for every class/course you are applying for.
- Student: complete and submit the online leadership questionnaire.
 - [First Time Student](#)
 - [Returning Student](#)
- Schedule an interview with Program Director.
 - Both parent and student are expected to participate in the interview as we see this communication and connection as a critical part of the equation in partnering with you in the character development of your child.

We look forward to meeting you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "RoseMarie Croce".

RoseMarie Croce
Director of Youth Ministries
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2026 Fall Semester After School Course Schedule:

Profiles In Leadership: The Good, The Bad, & The Ugly

Mondays and Wednesdays/4 sessions (September 14, 16, 21, 23)

Students will examine both celebrated and obscure American leaders, discovering how character, integrity, courage, and decision-making influenced their successes, failures, and lasting legacies. This is the third of five courses with a focus on history, civics, and government over the next year that will culminate with a historical trip to Washington D.C. in the Spring of 2027. Students will be selected for this experience based on their participation in this, previous, and future historical courses.

Course Lead: Mr. Jeff Coleman, Founder, Churchill Strategies, Former member of the PA House of Representatives,

Time: 4:00p.m. – 7:00p.m.

Location: Erie City Mission Youth Classroom (1017 French Street)

Cost: \$20.00 (If taking both History/Government courses, cost is \$30.00)

Introduction To Aviation:

Tuesdays and Thursdays/8 sessions total (September 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, October 1, 6, 8)

Have you ever wondered what it takes to become a pilot or work in the aviation industry? This hands-on course, offered in partnership with Fundamentals Flight Training, gives students the opportunity to explore aviation through simulators, airport experiences, and interactive activities while learning about exciting career pathways in aerospace and aviation.

Course Lead: Mr. David Benson, Owner, Pilot, Instructor

Location: Fundamentals Flight Training (1603 Asbury Road)

Time: 4:00p.m. – 7:00p.m.

Cost: \$30.00

Student Showcase: Thursday, October 8 (more details to come)

Introduction to 3D Printing/Creative Studio:

Mondays and Wednesdays/4 sessions (September 28, 30, October 5, 7)

Explore the exciting world of 3D printing by learning how printers work, creating digital models, and producing real objects. Working in teams, students will research market trends, develop or select a marketable product, and pitch their idea “Shark Tank” style to convince judges why their item should be manufactured and sold by Urban University to help fund their history trip to Washington D.C.

Course Lead: Mr. Will Mzumara, Mr. Tim Brown, Wabtec Engineers

Location: Erie City Mission Youth Classroom (1017 French Street)

Time: 4:00p.m. – 7:00p.m.

Cost: \$20.00

Sewing Design/Creative Studio:

Monday/Tuesday/2 sessions (October 12 and 13)

This Creative Studio offers veteran students who have previously taken UU sewing course/s to exercise and enhance their learned skills to produce items to sell at our next Urban University Gallery Shops, which are for the purpose of raising funds for our Washington D.C. history trip in Spring of 2027.

Course Lead: Mrs. Susan Hershelman

Location: Erie City Mission Youth Classroom (1017 French Street)

Time: 3:00p.m. – 6:00p.m.

Leading Through Differences: Free Speech, Civility, & Citizenship:

Mondays and Wednesdays/4 sessions (October 19, 21, 26, 28)

What does free speech really mean? Can you stand up for your beliefs while respecting someone who sees things differently? This course challenges students to explore these questions while developing the communication, critical thinking, and leadership skills needed to navigate today's culture with wisdom and respect. This is the fourth of five courses with a focus on history, civics, and government over the next year that will culminate with a historical trip to Washington D.C. in the Spring of 2027. Students will be selected for this experience based on their participation in this, previous, and future historical courses.

Course Lead: Mr. Jezree Friend, Vice President, Manufacturer and Business Association

Location: Erie City Mission Youth Classroom (1017 French Street)

Time: 4:00p.m. – 7:00p.m.

Cost: \$20.00 (If taking both History/Government courses, cost is \$30.00)

First Responders 101:

Tuesdays and Thursdays/8 sessions (October 20, 22, 27, 29. November 3, 5, 10, 12)

Experience what it's like to work on the front lines of public safety. Students will interact with local first responders through demonstrations, tours, and hands-on activities while exploring careers in emergency medical services, law enforcement, firefighting, emergency medicine, and 911 communications.

Course Lead: Staff from Emergycare, Erie Police, Erie Fire Department, Erie County Public Safety, AHN Emergency Room Services

Location: Erie City Mission Youth Classroom and Various Locations (1017 French Street)

Time: 4:00p.m. – 7:00p.m.

Cost: \$30.00

Introduction to Cricut Art/Creative Studio:

Mondays and Wednesdays/4 sessions (November 2, 4, 9, 11)

Discover the many creative ways to use a Cricut machine, tap into your creativity, learn marketing strategies, and produce creative and useful items to be sold by Urban University to help fund their history trip to Washington D.C.

Course Lead: Mr. Brandon Borgia, Owner, Borgia Artistry Studio

Location: Erie City Mission Youth Classroom (1017 French Street)

Time: 4:00p.m. – 7:00p.m.

Cost: \$20.00

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM DETAILS:

- Each course accepts between 8-12 students and includes a nutritious meal.
- Please note that our program meets regardless of days off from school. It will be expected that you will consider dates such as vacation, family events, appointments, etc. against our schedule so that you may ensure your students' attendance for every session, unless they are sick.
- Scholarship and transportation needs are considered at interview.

[STUDENTS APPLY HERE](#)



Program Contract

Our Mission:

Urban University (UU) seeks to develop junior high and high school students in Erie County toward servant leadership through a variety of experiences that include career exploration, academic enrichment, commerce, service learning, mentorship, and faith formation.

Students and families are not required to be of Christian faith to participate in UU; however, components of the program incorporate life and leadership principles from the Bible which are encouraged and practiced for character development and life-long success.

We (the parent and the student) agree to the following expectations of the Urban University program.

1. Participation: *I have decided to be a part of this program; therefore, I will take full advantage of the opportunity.*
2. Challenge: *I am willing to stretch myself to grow.*
3. Respect: *I understand the importance of respecting my leaders, my peers, and the property and materials I have the privilege to use.*
4. Grades: *I commit to giving my best in my education*
5. Language: *I will use my words to build others up.*
6. Cell Phones: *I understand that cell phones and media devices are not permitted to be used during program hours unless a leader allows it for an educational purpose or experience. Cell phones are collected upon arrival to the program and redistributed upon dismissal.*
7. Communication: *If I do not understand a UU policy or decision, I will take responsibility to share my questions or concerns with a staff member.*
8. Travel: *I will practice respect when traveling in UU vehicles, properly using seatbelts, demonstrating appropriate noise levels, and keeping my hands to myself.*
9. Dress Code: *I understand the dress code is neat and modest—no tank tops or camisoles, no visible undergarments, no hoods worn during program, pants must be pulled up to waist, shorts must be at least fingertip length, closed toe shoes are required.*
10. Attendance: *I understand, as the student, that I am committing to 100% attendance and to giving my best. I understand, as the parent, that I am expected to communicate in advance if my student is sick or not able to attend the UU program.*

We (the parent and the student) understand that if these expectations are not followed, or if any of the following misconduct occurs, it will result in immediate dismissal from the Urban University program.

1. Behavior that threatens any person's right to feel and be safe.
2. Behavior that includes inappropriate touching of a person's body, and/or using disrespectful or sexual language, inferences, or actions.
3. Behavior involving purposeful destruction of property, or theft.
4. Use of vaping, smoking, drugs, or alcohol.
5. Disrespect or refusal to follow directions of Urban University staff or mentors.

By completing the Urban University Program Application, we (the parent and the student) acknowledge that we have read and carefully considered these program expectations and commit to giving our best to get the most from this opportunity.

Biblical Leadership Principals

Compassion

- “And be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ also forgave you.” (Ephesians 4:32 MEV)
- “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” (Colossians 3:12 NIV)

Excellence/Giving Your Best

- “And whoever compels you to go a mile, go with him two.” (Matthew 5:41 MEV)
- “Don’t let anyone make fun of you, just because you are young. Set an example for other followers by what you say and do, as well as by your love, faith, and purity.” (1 Timothy 4:12 CEV)

Integrity

- “Say only yes if you mean yes, and no if you mean no.” (Matthew 5:37a NCV)
- “Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.” (Titus 2:7 ESV)
- “God delights in those who keep their promises and abhors those who don’t.” (Proverbs 12:22 TLB)
- “Put the word into action. If you think hearing is what matters most, you are going to find you have been deceived.” (James 1:22 The Voice)
- “Stop judging by the way things look. Be fair and judge by what is really right.” (John 7:24 ERV)

Perseverance

- “And let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t get discouraged and give up.” (Galatians 6:9 TLB)
- “Dear brothers, is your life full of difficulties and temptations? Then be happy, for when the way is rough, your patience has a chance to grow. So let it grow, and don’t try to squirm out of your problems. For when your patience is finally in full bloom, then you will be ready for anything, strong in character, full and complete.” (James 1:2-4 TLB)

Positive Attitude

- “Brothers and sisters, think about the things that are good and worthy of praise. Think about the things that are true and honorable and right and pure and beautiful and respected.” (Philippians 4:8 NCV)
- “Do everything without complaining or arguing.” (Philippians 2:14 NCV)
- “A cheerful disposition is good for your health; gloom and doom leave you bone-tired.” (Proverbs 17:22 MSG)

Power of Words

- “Your speech should always be gracious and sprinkled with insight so that you may know how to respond to every person.” (Colossians 4:6 CEB)
- “My dear brothers and sisters, always be willing to listen and slow to speak. Do not become angry easily.” (James 1:19 NCV)
- “Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.” (Ephesians 4:29 NLT)
- “Kind words are like honey—sweet to the soul and healthy for the body.” (Proverbs 16:24)
- “A gentle answer makes anger disappear, but a rough answer makes it grow.” (Proverbs 15:1 ERV)

Respect

- “Treat people the same way you want them to treat you.” (Luke 6:31 NASB)
- “Love each other as brothers and sisters and honor others more than you do yourself.” (Romans 12:10 CEV)

Service

- “When you do things, do not let selfishness or pride be your guide. Instead, be humble and give more honor to others than to yourselves. Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others.” (Philippians 2:3-4 NCV)
- “Help each other in troubles and problems. This is the kind of law Christ asks us to obey.” (Galatians 6:2 NLT)