



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 will review the 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 will 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 "Rose Marie Croce".

RoseMarie Croce
Director of Youth Ministries
814-572-2365 Cell
rmcroce@eriecitymission.org



2025 Winter After School Course Schedule:

Erie Otters/Professional Student Internship:

Fridays and Saturdays/7 sessions total (January 11, 24, 25, February 8, March 7, 15, 22)

In this hands-on sport management experience, students will have the opportunity to be immersed in the areas of “promotion and game day operations” and “media and communications” for the Erie Otters.

**To be considered for this course, prerequisite is Leadership In Action and a commitment to attend orientation session and all game dates, as listed above. SEE FLYER FOR DETAILS.*

Course Lead: Shawn Bednard and Haleigh Giebel, Erie Otters

Location: Erie Insurance Arena (1017 French Street)

Time: 5:00p.m. – 10:00p.m.

Cost: \$30.00

DSLR Photography:

Tuesdays and Thursdays/6 sessions total (January 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30)

We will be taking photography beyond the level of a cell-phone camera and introduce the mechanics of a digital single lens reflex camera and professional photographic techniques. Learn how to utilize manual settings of a DSLR camera to apply them to creative photography, including basics of composition to create well-balanced images. Student’s photos may be selected for professional mounting to sell at our UU Gallery Shop on May 2nd.

Course Lead: Jessica Crossley, Owner, Joyful Expressions Photography

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

Time: 4:00p.m. – 7:00p.m.

Cost: \$25.00

Leadership In Action:

Tuesdays and Thursdays/8 sessions total (February 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27)

Build your leadership and professional mindset as we learn from top leaders within our community and the regional Charter Foods/Taco Bell organization. Develop self-awareness, self-control, self-motivation, effective social skills, decision making, and personal responsibility as we discover our personality strengths and how best to work within a team.

**Students accepted in this course will be required to watch the movie “Hidden Figures” in advance. There will be a special Family Showing on January 31 to view this film in community.*

**Students accepted in this course will be required to serve at ECM’s Knock Out Homelessness event on Tuesday, February 18th (5-9PM).*

**This course is a prerequisite to be considered for the Professional Student Internship with the Erie Otters.*

Course Lead: Cindy Heintz, Professional Leadership and Certified DISC Trainer

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

Time: 4:00p.m. – 7:00p.m.

Cost: \$30.00

Marketing & Graphic Design/Youth Commerce:

Mondays/8 sessions total (February 17, 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7)

Learn the concepts behind marketing and the basics of good design. Using 'Procreate' software students will combine typography and images to create inspiring logos that convey Urban University’s culture of leadership. Designs may also be selected to be featured and available for purchase online at Erie City Mission’s merch shop.

Course Lead: Tracey Berger, Graphic Designer and Andy Muscella

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

Cost: \$30.00

Handbuilding Ceramics & Pottery/Youth Commerce

Tuesdays and Thursdays/8 sessions total (March 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27)

Learn clay hand-building and mold techniques such as pinching, coiling, and slab rolling, as well as applying textures to create functional and decorative pottery to keep and to sell at our UU Gallery Shop on May 2nd. Pieces will be complimented through glazing and finishing techniques that add color and design to each creation.

Course Lead: Eliza Wolfe, Artist In Residence and Owner, Main Street Arts

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

Time: 4:00p.m. – 7:00p.m.

Cost: \$30.00

DIY Soap Making/Youth Commerce

Tuesdays and Thursdays/4 sessions total (April 1, 3, 8, 10)

Learn the art of natural soap making and the science behind it while creating unique formulas with customized colors, exfoliants, and scents. You will make some for yourself as well as some to sell at our UU Gallery Shop on May 2nd.

Course Lead: Chelsea and Mackenzie Ackerman

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

Time: 4:00p.m. – 7:00p.m.

Cost: \$15.00

Sour Dough Baking/Youth Commerce

Tuesdays and Thursdays/4 sessions total (April 22, 24, 29, May 1)

Learn the art of baking with sour dough and the science behind it in making breads and other delectable baked goods. You will make some for yourself as well as some to sell at our UU Gallery Shop on May 2nd.

Course Lead: Chelsea and Mackenzie Ackerman

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

Time: 4:00p.m. – 7:00p.m.

Cost: \$15.00

Pickleball

Tuesdays and Thursdays/6 sessions total (May 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22)

Learn or improve your skills through drills, games, and competitions in this professional and rising sport. There is no dinner for this course.

Course Lead: RoseMarie Croce

Location: Church of the Cross (5901 Millfair Road)

Time: 3:45p.m. – 5:45p.m.

Cost: \$20.00

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM DETAILS:

- Each course accepts between 6-10 students and includes a nutritious meal.
- Please note that our program meets regardless of days off from school. It will be expected that you consider dates such as vacation, family events, appointments, etc. against our schedule so that you may ensure your student's attendance for every session, unless they are sick.
- Scholarship and transportation needs are considered for qualifying families.
- Family Semester Celebration and UU Gallery Shop will be Friday, May 2. More details TBA.

[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)