Summer Arch is a distinctive approach to student development and growth that prepares students to meet the multifaceted challenges of the 21st century. The Summer Arch will augment academic and experiential programs, and provide an even more robust—and transformative—educational experience for undergraduate students.

SUMMER ARCH
The Summer Arch is a restructuring of the Rensselaer academic calendar that creates additional opportunities for experiential learning to complement curricular and co-curricular offerings at Rensselaer.

Rising juniors will attend a full summer semester, the Summer Arch, between their sophomore and junior years, followed by an “away” semester taken during either the fall or spring of the junior year. This will allow students to take advantage of the numerous co-curricular and experiential learning activities available off campus, including international travel, internships, co-ops, research opportunities, and engagement in community service projects.

In 2017, Rensselaer will launch the first of two pilots of the Summer Arch, and rising juniors (members of the Class of 2019) from the School of Engineering and from the Lally School of Management will have the opportunity to participate in the Summer Arch.

In 2018, Rensselaer will launch the second pilot, and rising juniors (members of the Class of 2020) enrolled in all schools will have the opportunity to participate in the Summer Arch. The ultimate launch will take place in 2019 and will include all members of the Class of 2021.

In most cases, matriculation to degree completion is not intended to take more than eight terms of Rensselaer attendance. To accelerate their academic progress, students may take classes elsewhere prior to enrollment at Rensselaer, obtain AP/IB credit from high school, complete summer courses in subsequent summers, or some combination of these options.

MAXIMIZING RENSSELAER’S SIGNATURE STRENGTHS
The Summer Arch is an important element of Rensselaer’s commitment to Clustered Learning, Advocacy, and Support for Students, or CLASS. The Summer Arch enhances the Rensselaer educational experience through an academic plan of study that focuses on three specific outcomes: enhanced student-faculty interactions at a pivotal phase of the undergraduate experience; pathways for students who wish to augment their academic programs through the availability of a year-round
Frequently Asked Questions

When will students be expected to participate in Summer Arch?
Students in the Class of 2021 will be required to participate in the Summer Arch program in summer 2019. Exceptions include some varsity athletes and students in ROTC and select other programs.

Does this mean it will take more than four years to graduate?
With the exception of students in the five-year Bachelor of Architecture program, students who maintain satisfactory progress will graduate in eight terms at Rensselaer. To accelerate academic progress, students may take classes elsewhere prior to enrollment at Rensselaer, obtain AP/IB credit from high school, complete summer courses in subsequent summers, or some combination of these options.

What will students do on their semester “away” from Rensselaer?
Students can take advantage of numerous co-curricular and experiential activities available off campus, including international travel, internships, co-ops, research opportunities, pursuit of an entrepreneurial idea, and engagement in community service projects.

Will students have help in finding a co-op or internship?
Students seeking a co-op or internship experience during their “away” semester will continue to have the full resources of the Center for Career and Professional Development (CCPD) available to assist them in their search. The CCPD offers a wide range of professional development programs throughout the year. For more details, go to www.rpi.edu/dept/cdc.

What if students want to study abroad?
Study abroad has become an integral part of a well-rounded undergraduate experience. Rensselaer provides semester-long study abroad and exchange opportunities, short-term and faculty-led international programs, and other international experiences such as internships and service learning. In addition, new international opportunities will be made available during the “away” semester.

academic calendar, and flexibility in the academic schedule for all students to explore their passions and interests in a way that positions them for future success.

The Summer Arch and the junior year fall or spring “away” semesters will offer students other meaningful educational experiences and developmental opportunities that include the following:

- Better positioning for internships and co-ops during the “away” semester.
- Opportunities to pursue entrepreneurial ideas or in-depth fundamental research.
- International opportunities for students to gain a greater understanding and appreciation of other cultures and customs through arrangements with institutions across the globe (additional cost).
- Availability of diverse intellectual and cultural opportunities over the summer months for students to explore new worlds through myriad on-campus events and programming, and off-campus events across the greater Hudson-Mohawk Region and beyond to New York, Montreal, and Boston.

SUMMER ARCH AND THE NEW POLYTECHNIC GRADUATE

For nearly 200 years, the hallmark of a Rensselaer education has been a student learning experience that incorporates a robust emphasis on developing foundational strength in a chosen field of study. The Institute has always been committed to experiential learning, interactive classroom environments, and rigorous education. This has been reaffirmed in The Rensselaer Plan 2024, the new strategic plan that articulates a commitment to providing a transformational educational experience that produces graduates with intellectual agility, multicultural sophistication, and a global view. Fundamental to the Plan is a continued focus on disciplinary depth, enhanced by greater collaborative opportunities—residentially based, technology enabled, and globally focused. This is The New Polytechnic.

As Rensselaer approaches its third century of innovation and discovery, the Institute remains committed to educating the leaders of tomorrow. A Rensselaer education, through innovative pedagogy, global challenge-linked research, and a transformative student experience, positions graduates to truly change the world.

### Academic Semester Experience

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>FALL</th>
<th>SPRING</th>
<th>SUMMER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freshman</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Optional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophomore</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Required</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>Optional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Graduate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>Required</td>
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*Option for “away” semester