

Pioneer Academics Identified as Ethical Leader of Online Research Programs as ProPublica Denounces Shady Practices

Noting Pioneer's "rigorous standards," report documents other programs that dangle offers of dubious research publication in exchange for students' dollars

PHILADELPHIA, PA, UNITED STATES, June 7, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ -- An investigative report published by ProPublica and the Chronicle of Higher Education found that many online

"research" programs promote publications as a college admissions credential. Some promise high school students scholarly publications — something no program is ethically able to guarantee — while others publish those papers in low-quality journals, which they may themselves own, in exchange for students' paid participation in those programs.

“

At Pioneer we will continue to focus on our mission: helping students cultivate their passions through rigorous and original research. We are not pay-to-play, or pay-to-publish — and we never will be.”

*Pioneer Academics Cofounder
and Program Director
Matthew Jaskol*



Pioneer Academics

In contrast, the report identified [Pioneer Academics](#) as “the oldest online research mentorship program for high schoolers,” and noted that Pioneer has “maintained relatively rigorous standards” in an industry otherwise marred by dubious publications and transactional offers. ProPublica’s investigation found that unlike Pioneer’s low-standard competitors, Pioneer “never promises academic journal publication, according to its website.”

“The push for publication leads young scholars astray,” Pioneer co-founder Matthew Jaskol said in the report. “The message is that looking like a champion is more important than training to be a great athlete.”

Oberlin College corroborates the integrity of Pioneer’s research programs, which enable high school students to conduct original research projects virtually under the guidance of higher-

education faculty.

The ProPublica article explained, “Oberlin College gives credits to students for passing Pioneer courses. The college’s annual reviews have found that research done for Pioneer ‘far exceeded’ what would be expected to earn credit, said Michael Parkin, an associate dean of arts and sciences at Oberlin and a former Pioneer mentor, who oversees the collaboration.”

The report documents a widespread practice by other online research services that enable students to publish research of dubious quality in forums that imitate professional scholarly research journals but barely maintain academic standards. In some cases, ignoring clear conflicts of interest, the faux-scholarly journals were launched, and remain owned, by the same companies that are referring students’ papers to them.

The article also calls out other unethical practices common among online research providers. Some programs have inflated their credentials, for example by identifying mentors as Ph.D.s even when they didn’t have a doctorate. Others offer independent educational consultants “perks” that may violate college counseling ethics codes that prohibit counselors from accepting bribes that incentivize student referrals.

“Not only does Pioneer never promise publication, but we actively discourage students from applying to Pioneer if publication is their primary purpose,” Jaskol said. “Moreover, Pioneer Academics does not conduct college application consulting or affiliate financially with college application consultants. And we meet 100% of the demonstrated financial need of our applicants. We are not pay-to-play, or pay-to-publish — and we never will be.”

“We appreciate the work ProPublica has done to highlight the industry wide deceptive practices. We were gratified to see the report uphold Pioneer as a beacon of integrity in the space where too many companies mislead educators, parents, and students. At Pioneer we will continue to focus on our mission: helping students cultivate their passions through rigorous and original research.”

The full article, “The Newest College Admissions Ploy: Paying to Make Your Teen a ‘Peer-Reviewed’ Author,” is available here:

<https://www.propublica.org/article/college-high-school-research-peer-review-publications>

The Pioneer-focused news in this release was first published in [Glenside Local](https://glensidelocal.com/jenkintowns-pioneer-academics-identified-as-an-ethical-leader-of-online-research-programs-in-industry-wide-investigation/) --

<https://glensidelocal.com/jenkintowns-pioneer-academics-identified-as-an-ethical-leader-of-online-research-programs-in-industry-wide-investigation/> --

and then on [Adweek.com](https://www.adweek.com/adweek-wire/propublica-identifies-pioneer-academics-as-ethical-leader-of-online-research-programs/):

<https://www.adweek.com/adweek-wire/propublica-identifies-pioneer-academics-as-ethical-leader-of-online-research-programs/>

About Pioneer Academics

Pioneer Academics, a public benefit corporation, created a structured research mentorship model for high school students in 2012. The model provides undergraduate-level research opportunities to talented, intellectually motivated high school students from around the world. It is the only fully-accredited online research program for high school students. Pioneer Academics offers a wide range of areas in STEM, social sciences and humanities disciplines.

The Pioneer Research Program is respected for its selectivity and its rigorous academic system. In this system, selected students are mentored first in small international groups and then in one-on-one research by faculty of the leading colleges and universities, culminating in a full-length research paper.

Pioneer offers full institutional research resources including digital libraries, methodology seminars, writing center tutors, and cohort advisors to support scholars and create a consummate learning experience.

Pioneer is home to a global alumni community of 4,192 young leaders from 77 countries. For more information, visit: www.pioneeracademics.com.

Bill Brazell

WIT Strategy

+1 917-445-7316

[email us here](#)

Visit us on social media:

[Twitter](#)

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/638156792>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2023 Newsmatics Inc. All Right Reserved.