Alim mindset - think like a scholar, act like a scholar, become a student.
Points to consider, know, and understand when going into ALIM:

- "At ALIM they won't teach you how to ride the bike, they will disassemble the bike and put it back together to show you how it works"
- "Imagine Islam is a mirror, at ALIM they take that mirror and shatter it to look at each piece individually and then have you put it back together so that you really know the mirror now"
- Alim is not a traditional program or method of learning. You will be presented with challenges and concepts not how to think and what to think.
- You will be given concepts, sometimes simple, sometimes complex, you will then have to figure out how to apply it yourself
- Open your mind and get excited to learn
- You will come with questions and you will get answers to questions you didn't even know you had.
- You will leave with more questions than you arrived with. That's a good thing.
- You're going to hear things that challenge what you know and even what you don't know
- "The sign of an intelligent mind is being able to entertain a thought without accepting it"-Aristotle
- Entertain a thought and then accept a new concept, see how it feels
- Be ready and able to play your own devil's advocate because some teachers are going to do it for you, it will make your mind and thought process stronger
- Alim will have very exciting and intense moments and very
- You won't be able to pick up everything and that's okay
- Reflect very deeply and mentally explore what you do pick up
- Focus on making things relevant to yourself and conversations or situations you've previously had outside of ALIM
- Build upon what you are learning from session to session.
- Don't just hear the teachers, listen.
- Absorb what is being said.
- Sometimes you will really need to think when you listen. Sometime you need to NOT think when you listen. Learn to identify when to do either one.
- Think creatively when listening
- One definition of creativity is being able to find or investigate connections between two seemingly unrelated ideas or concepts
- "Originality often consists in linking up ideas whose connection was not previously suspected," -W. I. B. Beveridge
- Sometimes stop thinking and trying to understand, just listen and absorb.

- You’re going to learn concepts and subjects that seem boring and irrelevant don’t dismiss these things they will either connect or be built into the bigger picture later
- At first some concepts and ideas will seem irrelevant, write them down and make the connection later
- Don’t understand a word or concept? Look it up. Ask.
- You’re not being tested on the information
- Take notes to remember points but don’t make it a point to take notes
- Focus on the teachers and the knowledge they’re giving you
- If accommodations really are bad, see if others are having the same issue, rally together, bring it to the administration's attention and do something about it
- Take advantage of every moment with all the scholars, even if you don’t know who they are
- Really try to get to know the teachers if you get a chance
- Serve the teachers and accommodate them as if they are your guests, don’t wait for organizers or someone else to serve them
- Don’t understand what is being said? Ask.
- Ask.
- Contribute.
- Listen.
- Absorb.
- Being frustrated and your head hurting when you’re actually trying hard to grapple with new ideas and concepts is a good thing. It’s like the burn after a good workout. Your brain is getting gains.
- Hearing something you disagree with is going to happen, voice your disagreement! Respectfully!
- You’re disagreement may sometimes be surprisingly welcomed
- Don’t ever argue or debate with teachers or other students.
- Engage in dialogue and discussions with teachers and other students
- Keep in mind the Abrahamic “why” and the Satanic “why”: sincerely asking why to learn verse asking why out of apathy and cynicism
- When you’re outside of class focus on improving your worship.
- Pray, read Quran, make thikr. This will help things start to make more sense and become more clear
- Apply what you learned and heard to trips to the mosques and to the Friday prayers
- Make sure to consciously use what you learned to develop a general mental framework on how you think about Islam and Muslims and approaching challenges for Islam and Muslims