



wcaty

Wisconsin Center for Academically Talented Youth
University of Wisconsin - Madison

Application Checklist

This checklist contains useful information for completing your WCATY Summer Program application. You will find below a timeline regarding all important due dates, an application checklist for both new and returning students, and a guide to frequently asked questions which we hope will alleviate any concerns. However, if any of your inquiries are not fulfilled, feel free to contact wcaty@education.wisc.edu.

Application Timeline

January 3: Applications open

April 10: Financial aid applications due (including all supporting documents)

April 28: ALP, STEP, GEM (summer) applications due (including all supporting documents)

May 12: PACE and YSSP applications due (including all supporting documents)

May 17: First tuition payment due

June 7: Second tuition payment and all admitted students documents due

One month prior to program: WCATY emails handbooks with program details and will mail more program specific information including course placement and opening day details.

Application Checklist

New Students (Applicants who have not completed a WCATY program):

- Completed application form (online applications are preferred)
- \$30 or \$60 application fee (dependent on program)
- Current year or semester grade report
- Copy of most recent standardized test scores (e.g. WKCE or any other form)
- One recommendation form (download form from WCATY website)
- A recent (previous school year at least) writing sample, at least one page long, which reflects the student's best possible writing
- Optional:** Copy of NUMATS scores
- Optional:** In lieu of test scores, if none are available, submit samples and/or copies of class work in a field of study similar in nature to the selected WCATY course
- Optional:** Essay or other evidence explaining strong academic ability if not demonstrated in grade report or test scores.

Returning Students (Applicants who have successfully completed a WCATY program):

- Completed application form (online applications are preferred)
- \$30 or \$60 application fee (dependent on program)
- Current year or semester grade report
- Optional:** Essay or other evidence explaining strong academic ability if not demonstrated in grade report

Admitted Students (All students must submit these documents after they have been accepted):

- Health Form (Submit online through CampDoc registration unit. You will receive an email invitation to start)
- Student Rules Contract (Review ahead of time and bring a signed copy to check-in)
- Commuters Only:** Program Commuter Policy
- Optional:** T-shirt Contest application
- Optional:** Roommate and Residential Form

Program Costs

All applications must be accompanied by the non-refundable \$60 application fee before they can be processed. Financial aid is not available for application fees.

2016 Tuition Rates	Total Tuition	Due May 17, 2017	Due June 7, 2017
ALP Residential Student	\$2,700	\$1,350	\$1,350
ALP Commuter Student	\$1850	\$925	\$925
STEP Residential Student	\$1,850	\$925	\$925
STEP Commuter Student	\$1,200	\$600	\$600
YSSP Residential Student	\$950	\$475	\$475
YSSP Commuter Student	\$600	\$300	\$300
GEM Summer Student	\$220	\$0	\$220
PACE Commuter Student	\$400	\$200	\$200

5 – Month Payment Plan

If applicants wish to choose a 5-month payment plan, they must contact the WCATY office by the application deadline to arrange the details. Please note that applicants choosing the 5-month payment plan will be charged an additional \$50 finance fee.

Financial Aid

The deadline for financial aid applications is April 10, 2017. WCATY cannot allocate aid to students who have not been admitted to a program. As such the student's program application (including application fee, supporting documentation such as his/her grade report, etc.) must be complete by April 10, 2017. Families will be notified of decisions prior to the first tuition payment due date.

Applicants who are eligible for free/reduced lunch should submit the DPI Precollege Scholarship Form (download from our website or at http://weop.dpi.wi.gov/weop_precol). Applicants using this form must have Section II completed and signed by a school official. Please send this form directly to WCATY, not DPI. Applicants under grade 5 should still use this form so that they can be considered for scholarships from WCATY's other funders.

Applicants who are ineligible for free/reduced lunch should submit the first page of their 2016 tax return. If extenuating circumstances are affecting your family's finances, please submit a letter of explanation, in addition to your tax return.

Applications will be reviewed by WCATY's Financial Aid Committee. All requests will be answered and maintained in confidentiality. As part of the application process, please remember:

1. Financial aid is only available for Wisconsin students.
2. Applicants should check with school officials to see if local monies are available for program costs.
3. Applicants should inquire about local financial support through businesses/service organizations.
4. All materials supporting your application must be received by WCATY no later than April 10, 2017.
5. Applicants will be notified of awards before the first payment deadline of May 17, 2017.
6. Aid is determined by analyzing family income and extenuating economic circumstances according to the Income Eligibility Guidelines used by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's School Lunch Program. This document is available at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/notices/iegs/IEGs08-09.pdf>. In the past, WCATY has granted aid on a sliding scale to families with household income up to 350% of the federal poverty line.
7. Available funds for financial aid vary from year to year and past aid awards may not be an indication of current available support.

8. Each financial aid recipient will be required to write a thank-you letter to his/her sponsors and to provide WCATY with copies of the letters as a condition of final approval. Failure to submit the thank-you letter will result in automatic denial of all future financial aid requests.

Frequently Asked Questions

General Application Process

Q: How should I submit my supporting documents?

A: The online application gives you the option to upload the documents directly into the application unit. If uploading the documents is not an option for you, you may choose to either submit the documents via email (wcaty@education.wisc.edu) or by mail.

Q: How do I check my progress?

A: Upon acceptance, the applicant will receive a letter in the mail. However, the application unit will additionally be a useful way to check the progress of the student's application progress. There are three steps to the application unit that are useful after turning in the initial application:

1. To see what supporting documents WCATY has received. Next to each required document, you will see "On File" if it is in the system. You have the option to upload the documents. If you send in your documents via email or mail, a WCATY staff member will put them in the system.
2. To check if the application has been approved and whether the student has then been enrolled, though it will not yet show which class.
3. To pay tuition. Note that only the total can be paid online. Any initial half payments can be sent by check or made over the phone. Contact details are below.

Writing Samples - Requirement applies only to New Applicants

Q: Does it have to be on a specific topic?

A: No. The writing sample can be about anything. It need not be a personal statement as to why the applicant wants to attend a WCATY summer camp. The sample should reflect the strongest writing the applicant has done in the past year.

Q: Can it be a piece from school?

A: Absolutely. As long as the applicant believes it to reflect their strongest writing. It should be a writing sample submitted within the past year of school.

Q: How is the writing sample evaluated?

A: The writing sample is used as an additional way to assess the applicant's ability to write well. For classes that are writing intensive, this is a good opportunity for students to show their ability.

Grade Report

Q: Does the grade report have to be in a specific format?

A: WCATY understands that grade report formats vary across the board; thus, whatever format the school district gives will be accepted.

Q: Which grade report should we send in?

A: Whatever is the most recent report available. Be it semester or quarter, it is best to turn in one now than to wait to receive another one in several weeks' time. If a new grade report comes in before WCATY has updated the status of the student's application, feel free to delete the old report and upload a new report into the application unit.

Q: Does the school have to submit the grade report?

A: No. You can turn in the grade report yourself by uploading the grade report into the application unit. You may also submit it to WCATY by faxing or scanning and emailing to the WCATY with the contact details at the bottom of the page.

Health Form

Q: Do I have to submit the health form now?

A: No. The health form is only required once a student is accepted. After the student has been accepted, they will receive an email from the online platform "CampDoc" with information on how to complete the health form. The health form is due by June 1, 2017.

Q: Do I submit the health form by paper or online?

A: This year, health forms are filed online through the CampDoc. You will receive a link prompting you to create a profile and fill out the information online. If you are unable to access the online platform, a paper form is available upon request.

Q: What do I do if health changes occur after submitting the form?

A: This is not a problem. You can simply go onto the online platform, make the changes to the form, and resubmit.

Test Scores - Requirement applies only to New Applicants

Q: What test scores are WCATY looking for?

A: There are no specific test scores that WCATY requires. It need only be the standardized test that your school district is practicing (e.g. WKCE). For ALP applicants, ACT or SAT test scores are encouraged.

Q: Are NUMATS required?

A: It is recommended, but not required. Other forms are also accepted, as noted above.

Recommendation Form - Requirement applies only to New Applicants

Q: Do teachers have to send them directly to WCATY?

A: It is up to the teacher. Commonly, teachers send the recommendation form directly to WCATY by fax or email. However, if the teacher feels comfortable handing in the recommendation to the applicant to be assembled with the applicant's materials, WCATY will gladly accept it.