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 30: ALP, STEP, YSSP applications due (including all supporting documents)
May 14: PACE and GEM applications due (including all supporting documents)
May 16: First tuition payment due (ALP, STEP, YSSP only)
June 6: Second tuition payment and all admitted students documents due (All programs)

One month prior to program: WCATY emails handbooks with program details and will email 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
□ $30 or $60 application fee (dependent on program)
□ Current year or semester grade report
□ Statement of Purpose (see below, only ALP, STEP, PACE, YSSP)
□ Up to three additional materials:
      □ Copy of most recent standardized test scores (e.g. WKCE or any other form)
      □ Recommendation form(s) (downloaded form from WCATY website)

Returning Students (Applicants who have successfully completed a WCATY program):
□ Completed application form
□ $30 or $60 application fee (dependent on program)
□ Current year or semester grade report
□ Statement of Purpose (see below, only ALP, STEP, PACE, YSSP)

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 submit to WCATY office or bring a signed copy to check-in)
□ **Commuters Only**: Program Commuter Policy
□ **Optional**: Roommate and Residential Form

Admissions Criteria: Admission to the program will be based on evaluation of a variety of criteria; no single score or application item will determine a student's eligibility or acceptance. The program seeks students with a variety of outstanding academic, leadership, and creative talents. We encourage new students to submit extra supplemental documents as it provides stronger evidence for acceptance. If you choose not to submit extra documentation, we reserve the right to request further evidence of program eligibility.

Statement of Purpose:

In one essay, please respond to the following prompts. Use of organizational structure (headings, titles, etc.) is encouraged.

a) In one paragraph, please explain why you are interested in attending WCATY this year. What personal or academic goals can WCATY help you achieve?

b) Choose an issue facing the world today that you feel is pressing and important. This could be a problem you see affecting your local community, the country as a whole or many global players. Choose something that is important to you. In two to three paragraphs, please answer the following questions:

   a. What is the issue and why did you choose it?
   b. What is a potential solution to the issue?
   c. In what ways would you encourage and persuade others to care about this issue and your prescribed solution?

There is no right or wrong answer to either question. We are looking for a clear, well thought-out essay that reflects your honest thoughts and ideas. The more we can use this essay to understand your personality, the better. Therefore, please feel free to be as creative and inventive as you would like.

Program Costs

All applications must be accompanied by the non-refundable $60/$30 application fee before they can be processed. Financial aid is not available for application fees.

2018 Tuition Rates	Total Tuition	Due May 16, 2018	Due June 6, 2018
ALP Residential Student	$2,800	$1,400	$1,400
ALP Commuter Student	$1,900	$950	$950
STEP Residential Student	$1,900	$950	$950
STEP Commuter Student	$1,200	$600	$600
YSSP Residential Student	$970	$485	$485
YSSP Commuter Student	$650	$325	$325
PACE Student **	$420	-	$420
GEM Student **	$222	-	$222

** PACE and GEM Tuition is all due on June 6th. You may break it up if you would like, but there is no amount officially due in May.

Five-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, 2018. 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. 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). 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 2017 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 generally 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, 2018.
5. Applicants will be notified of awards before the first payment deadline of May 16, 2018.
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. Please note that this year, after you submit the online application, you will not be able to get back into your application. Therefore, we encourage you to have all supporting documents ready before starting the application. 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 will I know if I've been accepted to the program?
A: Upon acceptance, the applicant will receive an email confirmation and letter in the mail. Accompanied in the acceptance email will be more information about the rest of the registration process, including final payment information, important forms and details about the health forms.

Q: How can I pay tuition?
A: Tuition can be paid through an online portal. A link to the portal will be sent to you after you have been accepted. You can pay in part or pay the whole amount at once. Any initial half payments can be sent by check or made over the phone. Contact details are below.

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 should submit the grade report yourself by uploading the grade report into the application unit.

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. Please keep in mind that this email may go to your spam/junk mailbox so it is helpful to check that every so often. The health form is due one week prior to the beginning of camp.

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

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.

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.