



UW Academy Application Guide

2025-2026

(This guide pertains to the application cycle beginning November 2025 and ending in February 2026.)

A Note from the UW Academy Admissions Committee

We know that applying to the UW Academy may seem daunting or confusing. In this application guide, we will make an effort to clarify the application process. This guide also contains important information about Robinson Center policies and the transition to college, which applicants should consider carefully. Please read it closely, and feel free to contact us with questions.

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About the UW Academy

The UW Academy is an early entrance program for highly capable and motivated high school students, offered by the Robinson Center for Young Scholars at the University of Washington, Seattle. A select cohort of 40-45 students is admitted to UW through the Academy each year, becoming a part of the Robinson Center's (RC) vibrant early entrance community. Students apply to UW through the Academy during their 10th grade and, if accepted, withdraw from high school at the end of the school year. They then enroll as first-year students at the University of Washington, beginning with a three-part Advising & Orientation program designed to support students as they transition into college-level work and the university environment.

Unlike Running Start, Academy students are not enrolled simultaneously in high school and do not receive a high school diploma. Historically, this has not hindered Academy students in securing internships or jobs during their time at the university, nor has it been a problem in gaining employment or admission to graduate and professional schools. With the ongoing support of the Robinson Center staff and community, Academy students enjoy the benefits of full immersion into the University of Washington's social and academic life.

Admission to UW through the UW Academy

Admission to the UW through the UW Academy is competitive. We are looking for students who love to learn, who actively seek out academic challenges, and who have the personal motivation to succeed at the university two years early. Selection through the Academy is based on high school grades and curriculum, personal essays, including a portfolio piece, a record of extracurricular involvement, and teacher evaluations. While there is no minimum high school GPA required to apply, admitted students tend to have excellent grades. The range of admitted students' high school GPAs is typically 3.8-4.0 (out of a 4.0 scale). With that being said, in line with the admissions processes of the UW, the Academy employs a holistic admissions model. This means that we carefully evaluate all elements of an applicant's admission file to determine whether the Academy and the UW are the right educational fit; we take into account grades and academic achievements alongside evidence of personal maturity, leadership, and cultural awareness. Ultimately, we are looking for students who will be prepared to both benefit from and contribute to the University of Washington's vibrant academic and social community.

Eligibility to Apply to the UW Academy

The UW Academy accepts applications from students **currently enrolled in the 10th grade or equivalent within a Washington state school district**. Applicants must supply an unofficial high school transcript that includes first semester grades from their 10th grade year. We are unable to consider applications from students in the 9th or 11th grade.



Out of State/International/Non-Resident Students

The UW Academy and EEP/Transition programs are funded by the Office of Superintendent for Public Instruction (OSPI). OSPI requires that students have a residential address within a Washington State school district.

The Robinson Center submits monthly enrollment reports to OSPI, and funding is provided only for months in which a student is registered at the UW. Therefore, the Robinson Center will only admit students who reside in a Washington State school district at the time of application to ensure programmatic funding.

Note to Non-Local Applicants

Applicants who still reside in the State of Washington and are from outside of the Seattle area should understand that the UW Academy is not a residential program. Robinson Center staff are available only during regular business hours and in the physical offices of the RC itself. We do not have residence halls specifically for our students, nor do we provide specific resources for students living away from home. Simply put, our programs are designed for students whose families are also located in the Puget Sound area. In the rare cases where our students do make use of the residence halls, they are granted the freedom, independence, and responsibility of traditionally aged college students. Students and families must assess whether this level of responsibility is appropriate for them at this time.

Undocumented Students

The Robinson Center and the University of Washington welcome applications from undocumented students. To learn more about applying, please consult the UW's Undocumented Student Resource page at <http://www.washington.edu/admissions/undocumented/undocumented-faq>.

Admission to the UW

Students who are admitted to UW through the UW Academy are fully matriculated University of Washington students, given access to all of the same resources and opportunities as traditionally admitted students. However, because the application process and timeline for the UW Academy is separate from the process used to admit traditionally aged first-year students, there are some key limitations for our students that are important to consider.

Admission Scholarships

As a part of its admission process, the University of Washington awards several Academic Scholarships and Academic Excellence Awards to Washington state resident students who apply for first-year admission. Because UW Academy students are admitted through a separate application process many months later, they are not considered for these awards. Instead, the Robinson Center has a limited number of scholarships, both merit-based and need-based, that will be distributed when students are accepted into the program. **All UW Academy applicants are**

automatically considered for these RC-specific admission scholarships when they apply. We recommend that all students submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or WASFA (Washington Application for State Financial Aid), as it is necessary in order to be considered for some of these scholarships.

All UW Academy students can apply for financial aid and other non-UW admission scholarships. For more on this, see the “Paying for University” section. Also note the priority deadline for the FAFSA and WASFA is February 28th.

Admission to Major/College/Division

Some University of Washington academic programs have an admissions process that allows for more direct-to-major or direct-to-college admissions. In short, these policies allow for more students to be admitted to the university with guaranteed placement in capacity-constrained majors or colleges.

UW Academy students enter into the UW through a different application process with uncompleted CADRs (College Academic Distribution Requirements), which makes them ineligible for direct admission to any major, college, or division and CADR requirements must be completed prior to major declaration once admitted.

We work hard to advocate for our students to ensure that they are not disadvantaged when applying to these majors or colleges. We understand that these policies can be disconcerting for students who want reassurance that they will be able to access the majors they want when they apply to UW through the UW Academy. We will keep you apprised of any new information related to the UW's direct admission policies and procedures.

The vast majority of students enter their major through the standard admission process after enrolling at the UW. While the details of that process may vary from major to major, they can be generalized into three different major types: open, minimum requirements, and capacity-constrained.

Open majors

Open majors are available when you're admitted to the UW or can be declared at any time by any student in good academic standing.

Majors with minimum requirements

Minimum requirements majors have a set of prerequisite courses with a minimum GPA. All current UW students who meet the minimum requirements are admitted.

Capacity-constrained majors

Capacity-constrained majors are selective and have extra requirements, which may include an additional application process. Completing the minimum admission requirements does not guarantee entry. You can apply to most of these majors once you are a UW student. However, for

majors in the Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering and the College of Engineering, the main pathway is direct first-year admission. Current UW students may apply to them after enrollment, but space is extremely limited.

One helpful step all applicants can take is to seriously consider what major interests they declare on their UW Freshman Application (part two of their UW Academy application process). This information will be used to help advise students on what paths they need to take to ensure that they have access to any majors that interest them.

Living in the UW Residence Halls

The majority of UW Academy students do not live on campus during their first year. To be eligible to live on campus, minors must be at least 17 years old by the end of the contract year (September - June). For example, if you want to live on campus in AUT 2026, you must be 17 before June 2027.

For information on the UW's Housing and Food Services appeal for age restriction exemption, please see: hfs.washington.edu/housing/.

In order to have the best possible priority for housing, applicants who are planning to live on campus in their first year should be prepared to submit their application immediately after being accepted to our program. **We recommend looking over the different options for rooms, payment, and meal plans as early as possible in order to be ready when the application opens.**

Preparing to Apply – Early Deadlines!

Though the complete application for the UW Academy is not due until March, there are a couple of tasks that prospective students and families should complete much earlier, in January. We recommend that all interested students complete these tasks by the indicated deadlines, even if you are not totally sure if the UW Academy is right for you.

Standardized Assessment Registration

Students applying for the UW Academy are not required to take the SAT or the ACT exams as a part of their application unless they are a home-schooled student. For students who do take either test, the optional essay portion of these exams is not required. These exams are only administered on certain dates during the year. If you are considering taking the SAT or ACT, we recommend that you register for a test date ASAP! Scores received after the application deadline will not be included in application review.

Priority Deadline for filing FAFSA or WASFA at UW

We recommend that all prospective students submit a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or WASFA (Washington Application for State Financial Aid). Submitting by the priority deadline

of **February 28th** helps to ensure that you are eligible for the maximum amount of aid (and it doesn't hurt you at all if you don't end up applying).

The FAFSA or WASFA not only help to secure subsidized grants and loans to help fund your education, but they are also required for some scholarships as well (including the UW Academy need-based scholarships). Students always have the option to refuse any aid that is offered after filing. You do not need to have your annual tax return completed in order to apply. To find the application, go to <https://fafsa.ed.gov>. **The UW's school code is 003798.**

WASFA is an alternative option to FAFSA that is provided by the state of Washington for students that have DACA or are undocumented and are covered by HB 1079. HB 1079 was passed to offer in-state tuition to undocumented students who are considered Washington state residents. To be covered by HB 1079 you must reside in the state of Washington. You do not need to have DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) to be considered for WASFA. WASFA funding can come from the Washington College Grant (formerly known as the State Need Grant), and College Bound Scholarship. Again, like FAFSA, if you decide that the program is not for you, you can reject the aid. For more information and a step-by-step guide to filing WASFA please check out the [WASFA website](#).

Submitting Your Application

There are two major steps necessary to complete an application for the UW Academy, both of which must be completed online and both of which **must be completed by the application deadline**.

Please note: The Academy has a different application timeline than the regular UW freshman admissions process. **DO NOT submit your application directly to UW Admissions!** All application materials should be submitted online through the Robinson Center website: <https://robinsoncenter.uw.edu/>.

PART 1: Create a profile on the Robinson Center (RC) Website. This profile allows us to open a file for you, track your application materials, and maintain current contact information. The online application also asks you to provide information or materials that will be important to your application, like the names and contact info for the teachers who will be providing you with evaluations and an unofficial copy of your high school transcript.

PART 2: Complete the UW Freshman Application through the RC application portal. After you have completed your RC profile, you will be prompted to begin the UW Freshman application. This part of your application gathers data that the UW Admissions office will need to process your enrollment, if you are accepted into the UW Academy program. *Some of these questions may seem redundant or similar to questions you already answered in Part 1, but they are used for very different purposes.*

The application deadline for the incoming class of 2026 is 5:00 PM PST on Tuesday, February 17th, 2026. You must fully complete and submit both parts of the online application by this date and time, including the submission of all evaluations, optional test scores, unofficial transcripts, and the \$85 application fee.

Application Checklist

PART ONE: Robinson Center Profile

- Two Required Teacher Evaluations
 - *One evaluation must come from a Humanities teacher*
 - *One evaluation must come from a STEM teacher*
- Up to Two Optional Evaluations
- Unofficial High School Transcript
 - *Must include final grades from first semester of 10th grade*

PART TWO: UW Freshman Application

- Application Essays
 - Personal Statement
 - Short Response
 - Selected Activities & Accomplishments
 - Additional Comments (optional)
 - UW Academy Application Essay
 - Portfolio piece and reflection
 - \$85 application fee
- **(OPTIONAL)** Student Score Report from ACT or SAT Exams
 - Scores must be sent by the testing agencies to both the UW school code (4484 for the ACT and 4854 for the SAT) and the Robinson Center's Washington Search for Young Scholars school code (9899 for the ACT and SAT).
 - *SAT or ACT scores are no longer required unless you are a homeschooled student who comes from a school with non-standard grading practices that do not have letter or numeric grades. Exceptions include home-schooled applicants with at least one year of college coursework.*

Components of the Application

In this section, we will break down the different components of the application. Hopefully, these explanations will give you specific and useful information about how to complete these different parts, what we are looking for, and what you should expect when you sit down to fill out the application.

Part One: Robinson Center Profile

When you click the “Apply Online” button on our website, your first task will be to either create a new profile on the Robinson Center database or login to an existing profile. If you have ever participated in any of our Summer or Saturday programs, or if you have applied to our programs before, you may already have an account. ***We recommend that the student applicant uses their own email as the primary account holder.***

Once you have successfully logged in, click on the button to “Start a New Application” and pick the “UW Academy” option, after which you will be directed to answer a number of basic questions to fill out your applicant profile. You will also be asked to provide information that will be important to your application. These include:

- The name and contact information of your academic counselor at your high school.
- The names and contact information for all of the teachers, mentors, or other (non-family) adults who will be filling out evaluations for your application.
- An unofficial transcript from your high school, including grades from your 9th grade and first semester of 10th grade (can often be downloaded as a pdf from your high school’s website/online student portal).
- **(OPTIONAL)** Your SAT or ACT scores.

If you do not have this information on hand immediately, you can still open your application and come back later to fill in these details. **However, your application will not be considered complete and cannot be reviewed until all sections are completed.**

Evaluations

As a part of your RC Profile, you will be asked to identify two (2) teachers in core subject areas who can speak to your strengths and qualifications. In addition, you can also identify up to two (2) optional evaluators who may be teachers in other subjects or other adults (non-family members) who can testify to your academic and personal strengths. After you submit this information, online evaluation forms will be sent to the evaluators that you identify. *Students should approach their teachers ahead of time to ask if they will serve in this role, before the automated evaluation form is sent out.*

Required Teacher Evaluations

Each Academy applicant must submit **one evaluation from a high school Humanities instructor** (such as English, History, or Social Studies) and **one evaluation from a high school STEM instructor** (such as Math, Physical Science, Chemistry, Biology, Physics). We are looking for evaluations from high school instructors who can speak to your academic accomplishments, practices, readiness for college, and interpersonal maturity.

Optional Evaluations

Up to two optional evaluations will be considered from teachers, coaches, supervisors, or other mentors who can speak to your talents in ways that your two required evaluations

cannot. The individuals who submit optional evaluations may come from any subject area and from any educational program, including high school, summer programs, individual tutoring, or enrichment programs. *An evaluation from a family member cannot be accepted.*

If homeschooled, it is required to submit at least one optional evaluation if separate high school Humanities and STEM instructors cannot produce evaluations.

The ability to waive your right to review evaluations is a standard practice of most university evaluation systems, and it is considered conventional to waive these rights. This is a choice that all applicants to the UW are given, but applicants should understand the ramifications of the choice. If you do not waive your rights, the reading committee who is considering your application cannot be confident that the evaluators are submitting truthful and uncensored evaluations of your abilities and character. Instead, we recommend that you talk to your evaluators in advance to ensure they feel confident to write you a strong review. If they are not able to do so, please contact our team to discuss your options.

ACT or SAT Student Score Report

(OPTIONAL) UW Academy applicants may submit their scores from either the ACT or the SAT Exam. **The UW Academy does not require or recommend that students take the essay portion of either test.**

SAT or ACT scores are no longer required unless you are a homeschooled student who comes from a school with non-standard grading practices that do not have letter or numeric grades. Exceptions include home-schooled applicants with at least one year of college coursework.

Check the ACT website (actstudent.org) or the SAT portion of the College Board website (sat.collegeboard.org/) for testing schedules and registration information. *Please have your ACT or SAT scores sent to the UW school code (4484 for the ACT and 4854 for the SAT) **and** the Robinson Center for Young Scholars school code (9899 for both the ACT and the SAT).* You may access your score report from the ACT or SAT websites a few weeks after you take the test.

If taken, you will be asked to report your scores as a part of your RC profile *and* again as a part of the UW Freshmen Application in **Part Two**.

Unofficial High School Transcript

As a part of your RC Profile, you will also be asked to submit unofficial transcripts from all high schools and colleges you attended during 9th and 10th grades. Your unofficial high school transcript must include your final grades from the first semester of your 10th grade year. Unofficial transcripts can often be printed from online student portals or secured by making a request from your school's Counseling Office. Transcripts must show the student's name and final grades for the first semester or trimester of 10th grade.

Part Two: UW Freshman Application

After you have submitted the RC profile, you will be prompted to begin “Part Two” of the UW Academy application, the UW Freshman Application. This application is structurally similar to the application that all UW first-year applicants submit for regular admission. The information gathered in this part of the application will be sent to the central UW Admissions office **only if** you are admitted to UW through our program. It will be used to process your official enrollment and to generate your official UW student profile. Because this information is formatted for the UW Admission office, there may be questions that are repeated from the previous RC Student Profile section.

There are multiple sections to this part of the application, and you can save your progress and return to it as many times as you want before submitting it. In this part, you will be asked to give a variety of different types of information, including, but not limited to:

- Your personal information, including Social Security numbers, citizenship status, etc.,
- Information about family history and parent’s educational background, and
- Detailed accounting of your past schooling experiences.

In addition to this, you will be asked to provide your ACT or SAT scores again, **if you choose to**, and to provide information about major areas of study that you might be interested in.

Writing Section

At the end of Part Two, you will be given space to enter your writing for several required application essays. These are also a standard part of the UW First-Year Student Application.

All writing in the application, including your essay/personal statement and short responses, must be your own work. Do not use another writer’s work, and do not use artificial intelligence software (ChatGPT, Bard, etc.) to assist or write your statement.

Per [Washington state law](#) and [University of Washington policy](#), all admissions staff are mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect. Any statements in written materials that give admissions staff reasonable cause to believe abuse or neglect of someone under the age of 18 may have occurred must be reported to Child Protective Services or the police. Learn more about [University reporting requirements](#).

If you or someone you know is a survivor of sexual assault or other sexual misconduct, [RAINN](#) is a national hotline that provides support and referrals. Call 800.656.4673 or visit the website for a chat option. For individuals who have experienced domestic violence or intimate partner violence, the [National DV Hotline](#) offers phone, chat, and text options for support.

UW Academy applicants must complete all of the First-Year Student Writing Samples, including the “Essay (A),” “Short Response (B),” and “Activities & Achievements (E).”

The “Additional Information About Yourself or Your Circumstances” (C) and the “Additional Space” (D) sections are optional.

All of these writing samples can be submitted by cutting and pasting your essay text into the UW First-Year Student application section of your UW Academy Application. **Our advice is that you draft each of these writing sections well in advance, giving you time to edit, review, and receive feedback from multiple readers.** Do not attempt to draft answers to the prompts directly into the online text boxes, as they may not be saved automatically! Your essay will be evaluated for both structure and content so you want it to be as polished as possible.

UW Application Essays, Activities, and Achievements

The information below is from the UW Admissions website at <https://admit.washington.edu/apply/freshman/how-to-apply/writing-section/>. Go to this website for more tips about how to successfully compose your application writing samples.

At the UW, we consider the college essay as our opportunity to see the person behind the transcripts and the numbers. Some of the best statements are written as personal stories. In general, concise, straightforward writing is best, and good essays are often 300-400 words in length.

Essay prompt [required]: Tell a story from your life, describing an experience that either demonstrates your character or helped to shape it.

Maximum length: 650 words

Short response [required]: Our families and communities often define us and our individual worlds. Community might refer to your cultural group, extended family, religious group, neighborhood or school, sports team or club, co-workers, etc. Describe the world you come from and how you, as a product of it, might add to the diversity of the UW.

Maximum length: 300 words

Tip: Keep in mind that the UW strives to create a community of students richly diverse in cultural backgrounds, experiences, values and viewpoints.

Additional information about yourself or your circumstances [optional]

You are not required to write anything in this section, but you may include additional information if something has particular significance to you. For example, you may use this space if:

- You have experienced personal hardships in attaining your education
- Your activities have been limited because of work or family obligations
- You have experienced unusual limitations or opportunities unique to the schools you attended

Maximum length: 200 words



Activities & Achievements [required]: Identify up to 8 of your most significant activities or achievements during grades 9-10 (you may include activities that began in middle school, as long as they have continued into your high school years). Please only include one specific activity or achievement per entry (e.g. do not list "Music" as an activity and then include symphony orchestra, concert band, and state competition. Instead, list orchestra, band, and competition as separate activities.)

In a few bullets or sentences, indicate 1) what the activity is, 2) any leadership role you had, 3) at what level the achievement or activity was (local, regional, state, national, international) and 4) how long the activity or achievement lasted.

You may include specific activities, skills, achievements, or qualities from any of the following general categories:

- Leadership in or outside of school (e.g., athletics, student government, cultural clubs, band, scouting, community service, employment)
- Activities in which you have worked to better your school or community
- Exceptional achievement in an academic field or artistic pursuit
- Personal endeavors (e.g., independent research, reading or learning; dance or music lessons; weekend language, culture or religious schooling)
- Family obligations such as taking care of siblings, caring for a family member, working a job to help support your family, or other relevant experiences

Maximum length: 50 words for each activity

UW Academy Essay and Portfolio

UW Academy applicants are required to write an essay specifically addressing their reasons for seeking early entrance to college. Students should treat this essay in the same way they treat the essays for the UW First-Year Student Application Writing Section.

Essay Prompt: Explain why you want to leave high school now and start at UW early. Address each of the following areas:

- A specific experience or challenge motivating your decision
- How you have handled challenges, setbacks, or pursued learning beyond the classroom
- Areas of learning or exploration that excite you and how you will engage UW opportunities
- How your social, emotional, and academic maturity prepares you for college
- Your goals and how you will take responsibility for achieving them

Maximum length: 500 words

Tips:

- Use this essay to tell us more about yourself. When writing your UW Academy Application Essay, make sure that your topic and examples are distinct from the personal statement and short essay you wrote for the UW Freshman Application.
- You may want to write about a variety of areas: academic, social, cultural, personal, or all of the above. Show us that you can think critically and creatively about what it means to enter college early.
- You may decide to talk about challenges you have faced in the past. This is a fine choice for this essay, but if you talk about challenges or struggles, be sure to also explain what strategies you have used to respond to them.

UW Academy Portfolio Piece and Reflection

Applicants are asked to submit one piece of evidence of their work that demonstrates their preparedness for college-level learning and engagement. You are also asked to explain the reason for the chosen submission and what you want us to notice that provides evidence of your preparation. Note: We are not evaluating the quality or expertise of your submission but rather how it helps to demonstrate your readiness for college learning and engagement.

Step 1: Submission may include one of the following: graded assignment or writing sample (2 page limit, may be an excerpt of a longer piece); creative/artistic work (PDF, hyperlink, YouTube video clip of no more than 3 mins); website (1 page); description of a self-designed project that can be evaluated within 2 mins (PDF or hyperlink).

The following are examples of what a portfolio piece could consist of:

- A self-designed project that involves research or long-term commitment
- A project that involves a leadership role with prolonged group engagement
- A project that involves identifying a community need and creating a robust solution that is put into action
- A demonstration of long-term self study or learning a new skill
- An exceptional performance on a summative assessment at school (e.g., a midterm exam, final project, paper, or recital)
- A creative project that demonstrates practice and learning over time

Step 2: Explain the reason for the chosen submission and what you want us to notice that provides evidence of your preparation for college-level learning and engagement. If you are submitting a group project, be sure to talk about the particular parts you worked on.

Applicant Instructions: In **300 words**, explain:

- Why you chose this work



- How completing it challenged you or required initiative
- Any obstacles you overcame or ways you adapted
- What this work reveals about your independence, curiosity, resilience, or organization
- If a group project, describe your specific contributions and what you learned about collaboration or leadership

Essay Formatting

- Content is important, but spelling, grammar and punctuation are also considered.
- We recommend composing in advance, then copying and pasting into the application. Double-spacing, italics, and other formatting will be lost, but this will not affect the evaluation of your application.
- We've observed most students write a polished formal essay, yet submit a more casual short response. Give every part of the writing responses your best effort, presenting yourself in standard, formal English.
- Proofread, proofread, proofread!

Tip: Write like it matters, not like you're texting. This is an application for college, not a message to your friend. Get some hints from this video: <https://youtu.be/mETHMplqw1Q>

Four Strategies for Effective UW Academy Applications

1. See the Big Picture

Make sure you are thinking strategically about the *whole* application. Consider the parts and how each element of the application should add to a complete picture of you. For example, the Robinson Center admission review team will be able to see your transcripts, so you don't need to talk about your grades in the essay. But you can use your essays to tell us about *how* you learn and how your experiences in classes have prepared you for early college entrance—things that your transcript will not show or communicate.

2. Do Your Research

As a part of the application process, you should be learning as much as possible about the UW Academy program and the Robinson Center itself. What is the larger mission of the RC? How exactly does the UW Academy program work, and how does it support its students? What are the common struggles of early entrance students? What opportunities are available through the UW Academy? Through the University of Washington? Showing us that you know what you are applying for can help us to evaluate your readiness for this educational path. Conversely, applications that display misunderstandings about the UW Academy program or the University of Washington system suggest that applicants might not fully understand the choice they are making.

3. Be Explicit

Most of the application asks you to describe experiences that you have had in your life and education up to this point: challenges you've faced, changes you've experienced, goals you've achieved. When answering these prompts, don't forget to consider the reason why you are being asked to talk about these things in the first place! The UW Academy wants to know about your experiences *and how they have prepared you for early entrance to college*. While you should try to be explicit about how *you* see this preparation as often as possible, remember that there are many different, equally important ways to understand preparation. Students who apply to the UW Academy must be prepared to be successful in classes, but they *also* need to be prepared to interact with peers and professors in a more independent learning environment with professional expectations.

4. Use Your Resources

Use all the resources around you to make sure that your application is free of errors and paints an accurate picture. Use your high school teachers and counselors to give you feedback and advice on your application. Have friends, relatives, and mentors read your materials. Sometimes, it is very difficult to hear how we are coming across in our writing, especially when writing about ourselves. Make sure a second (or third or fourth) set of eyes reviews your application!

After You Apply to the UW Academy

Admission Decisions

Decision letters will be emailed approximately 8-10 weeks after the application deadline. Please note that due to the volume of applications, we are unable to speak with applicants about the standing of their specific application during the application review process following the submission deadline.

Fifty students, with an enrollment target of 40 students, are accepted into UW through the UW Academy annually. We do not have a waitlist or appeals process. Before making their decisions about whether to join UW through the Academy, accepted students are invited to attend Decision Days as well as an Accepted Student Info Night. During Decision Days, accepted students meet with current early entrance students for a day-in-the-life experience. Accepted students can also have an individual meeting with an Academy staff member.

The Academy cohort is usually set by the end of May. A reception welcoming new students and their families is held in June, followed by a first-year family connections meeting and family orientation for parents and guardians of incoming Academy students. At the conclusion of 10th grade, Academy students request final transcripts from their schools, withdraw from high school, and enroll as full-time first-year students at the UW the following Fall.

Final High School Transcripts



Applicants who are admitted and who confirm their intention to enroll at the UW through the Academy will be required to send a final high school transcript that includes the second semester of their 10th grade year. Final transcripts should be submitted as soon as the spring term of their sophomore year is complete and coursework and grades have been recorded on the transcript(s). Transcripts are due to admissions no later than July 15th.

The UW Academy staff will verify that all admission requirements have been satisfied, and the offer of admission can be withdrawn if important discrepancies are discovered.

Please note: All Academy students admitted for the Fall will have required academic advising, orientation programming, and Autumn quarter registration workshops through mid-July, as well as Bridge programming starting in mid-September. A calendar will be made available to admitted students in May. Please keep this in mind when making summer vacation plans.

Appeals

The UW Academy does not offer an appeal process for applicants. We are limited in the total number of students we are able to admit in a single cohort in our agreement with OSPI and UW Admissions.

Summer & Fall Programming

Newly admitted UW Academy students must complete the **MANDATORY** three-part UW Advising & Orientation program. A&O Part 1 opens as soon as students accept their offer of admission and consists of online modules in the Husky Foundations Course. Students will register for their remaining Advising and Orientation sessions during A&O Part 1. In mid-July, students will attend A&O Part 2, which consists of a two-day immersion into UW life, including a virtual Advising Foundation session and Registration Lab with the RC's Academic Advisor, where students register for Fall quarter classes and learn more about University requirements.

RC Scholars Bridge Program

In mid-September, Academy students begin the RC Scholars' bridge program alongside incoming Early Entrance Program students from the Transition School. The RC Scholars Bridge program consists of Advising and Orientation Part 3 (summer), our Peer Mentor Program (year-long), and RC Scholars Seminar courses (fall, winter, and spring). The RC Scholars Bridge program is designed to support students in their transition to the University setting.

All academic advising and Bridge programming in Spring, Summer, and Fall are REQUIRED for incoming Academy students. All first-year students are paired with a Peer Mentor.

Paying for University

As UW Academy students are Washington State residents, they pay resident tuition to the UW. No additional fees are charged outside of direct costs paid to the University of Washington.

We highly encourage applicants to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA). The application is available at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa> or <https://readysetgrad.wa.gov/wasfa-washington-application-state-financial-aid>.

The FAFSA is used to determine students' eligibility for federal, state, and UW need-based scholarships, including the UW's Husky Promise award. Please check the FAFSA website for deadlines, forms, and instructions.

WASFA is used to determine undocumented students' eligibility for state financial aid. If eligible for WASFA, you will have access to in-state tuition, the College Bound Scholarship, or the Washington College Grant (formerly known as the State Need Grant). For more information, please check the instructions and information on the WASFA website.

The UW FAFSA or WASFA application priority deadline is February 28th. If you intend to access financial aid, do not wait for an Academy admissions decision to apply. Students and families can still submit the FAFSA or the WASFA after the February deadline, but this may affect both the amount of support and the kinds of funding that are offered. Students do not need to be admitted to the UW Academy program prior to submitting a financial aid application.

Academy applicants are automatically considered for a handful of merit-based and need-based scholarships offered by the Robinson Center and the Mary Gates Scholars Program.

We encourage Academy applicants to apply for local and national scholarships. Applying for these awards necessitates advanced planning, as the deadlines are often in the winter. We can be a contact to help explain the Academy and its application process for students applying for local and national scholarships. Email us at uwacad@uw.edu to request this support.

See the UW Admissions website (<https://admit.washington.edu/costs/>) and the Office of Merit Scholarships, Fellowships & Awards website (<https://expd.uw.edu/scholarships/>) for more information about financing your education.

UW Disability Resources & Services

DRS is dedicated to ensuring access and inclusion for all students with disabilities on the Seattle campus. For information or to request accommodations, please contact:

UW Disability Resources for Students

<https://depts.washington.edu/uwdrs/>

uwdrs@uw.edu

206-543-8924 (Voice & Relay)

206-616-8379 (Fax)

**Students with Disabilities Preparing for Postsecondary Education
(U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights)**

www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/transition.html