



# 4 STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE UW ACADEMY APPLICANTS

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## 1. SEE THE BIG PICTURE

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Make sure you are thinking strategically about the *whole* application. Consider the parts and how each element of the applications 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

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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 "getting into" 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

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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

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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!