UW Academy for Young Scholars

2020 Freshman Application Guide
A Note from the UW Academy Admissions Committee

We know that applying to the UW Academy for Young Scholars 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.

UW Academy Contact Information

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Robinson Center for Young Scholars
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Website: robinsoncenter.uw.edu
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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 up to 35 students is admitted to the Academy each year, becoming a part of the Robinson Center's (the “RC”) vibrant early entrance community. Students apply to the Academy during the 10th grade and if accepted, withdraw from high school at the end of the school year. They enroll as freshmen at the University of Washington, beginning with a Bridge Program designed to assist 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 the UW Academy

Admission to 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 to the Academy is based on high school grades and curriculum, standardized test scores (ACT or SAT), required essays, a record of extracurricular involvement, and teacher recommendations. While there is no minimum test score or high school GPA required to apply to the Academy, admitted students tend to have excellent test scores and grades. For the incoming class of 2018, the average ACT composite was 30 (range of 19-35), the average SAT score was 1474 (range 1350-1580), and the average high school GPA was 3.97 (range of 3.78-4.00).

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. Applicants must supply an unofficial High School transcript which 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/Non-Resident Students
Academy students who are not Washington State residents will be required to pay 1) Non-Resident UW tuition and 2) the Academy Non-Resident Fee for their first and second years at the UW. For more information on the Academy Non-Resident Fee, please contact the Robinson Center (see page 2 for RC contact info). Some students will be able to qualify for residency status once they and their families have resided in the state for over a year, at which point they will pay regular in-state tuition and waive the Academy Non-Resident Fee. Students’ residency status is determined by the UW Office of Residency and is not negotiated through the Robinson Center.

Applicants from outside of the Seattle area should understand that the UW Academy is not a residential program. This means that the Robinson Center provides no additional supervision or security for their young students beyond what is afforded to all college students. Robinson Center staff is available only during regular business hours and in the physical offices of the RC itself. We do not have dorms 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 Seattle area. In the rare cases where our students do make use of the dorms, they are granted the freedom, independence, and responsibility of standard-aged college students. Students and families must assess whether this level of responsibility and risk is appropriate for them at this time.

Living in the UW Residence Halls
The majority of UW Academy students do not live on campus during their first year. Typically, the minimum age for applying for student housing is 17, but there is a process by which students who are 16 (and will turn 17 during the academic year) can apply to the dorms with some extra steps. 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 dorm in their first year should be prepared to submit their application very soon after being accepted to the program. We recommend looking over the different options for rooms, payment, and meal plans, in order to be ready when the application opens.
International Students
Our mission is to admit and support motivated, highly-capable students seeking early entrance to the UW, and we welcome applications from international students who fit this profile. But because of the unique nature of the early entrance programs housed in the Robinson Center, only students with particular types of international visas will qualify to apply. Since our students enter the university in a non-traditional way, we are, in some cases, restricted by law and unable to admit students who are supported by particular visa types. In addition, students with applicable visas must submit evidence of their language proficiency alongside their application. For more information about which visa types are eligible, as well as other important considerations for international student applicants, please see the full policy online at https://robinsoncenter.uw.edu/programs/international-student-policy/.

Undocumented Students
The Robinson Center and the University of Washington welcomes 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 the UW Academy are fully matriculated University of Washington students, given access to all of the same resources and opportunities as traditionally admitted students. But, because the application process for the UW Academy is separate from the process used to admit traditionally-aged freshmen, there are some differences in how our students enter the UW.

Admission Scholarships
As a part of its admission process, the University of Washington awards several Academic Scholarships and Academic Excellence Awards to WA-state resident students who apply for freshman admission. They also distribute “Purple and Gold” scholarships to non-resident applicants. 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), 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-admission scholarships. For more on this, see the “Paying for University” section on page 17. Also note the deadline for the FAFSA, detailed in the next section.

Direct Admission to Major/College/Division

Many University of Washington academic programs are currently redesigning their application processes to allow for more “direct to major” or “direct-to-college” admissions. In short, these policy changes 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, and they enter with uncompleted CADRs (College Academic Distribution Requirements) that make direct admission not possible. Nevertheless, we have been able to ensure that our students are given access to these majors and colleges. The College of Engineering, for instance, treats any of our admitted UW Academy students as “undeclared engineering” direct admits, provided that they continue to express interest in the program and pursue prerequisites in their first year. In this case, UW Academy students can access all of the courses and resources offered to Engineering direct admits, while still exploring the many paths of study at the UW.

Many of these changes in the UW’s direct admission policies are currently “in-process” and we are working hard to advocate for our students and to ensure that they will not be disadvantaged when these policies are finalized. We understand that these changes can be disconcerting for students who want reassurance that they will be able to access the majors they want when they apply to the UW Academy. We will work to keep you apprised of any new information related to the RC’s “Direct Admission” policies and procedures.

We advise students to take some time to consider what major interests they declare on their UW Freshman Application (part two of their UW Academy application process, see page 12). 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.

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.

Jan 15 Priority Deadline for filing FAFSA and WASFA at UW
We recommend that all prospective students submit a FAFSA (Free
Application for Federal Student Aid (or WASFA) helps to ensure that you are eligible for the maximum amount of aid (and doesn't hurt you at all if you don't end up applying).

The FAFSA not only helps to secure federally subsidized grants and loans to help fund your education, but it is 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 have to have completed your annual tax return in order to complete the application. To find the application, go to [https://fafsa.ed.gov](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 for undocumented students. To be covered by HB 1079 you must have resided in the state of Washington for DACA, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, gives you access to in-state tuition, 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 look to our website and the WASFA website ([https://readysetgrad.wa.gov/wasfa](https://readysetgrad.wa.gov/wasfa-washington-application-state-financial-aid)).

Jan 17

**Last Day to Register for a Test Date**

Students applying for the UW Academy are required to take either the SAT or the ACT Exam as a part of their application. 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 applying for the UW Academy, we recommend that you register for a test date ASAP! **If you do not take the exam on one of the dates we have listed here, your scores will not be reported in time for us to consider your application.**

### 2019-2020 ACT Dates

Send to scores to both UW (4484) and to the Robinson Center (9899).

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Test Date</th>
<th>Registration deadline</th>
<th>Late Registration (fee)</th>
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<td>September 20, 2019</td>
<td>October 4, 2019</td>
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<td>December 14, 2019</td>
<td>November 8, 2019</td>
<td>November 22, 2019</td>
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<td>February 8, 2020</td>
<td>January 10, 2020</td>
<td>January 17, 2020</td>
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### 2019-2020 SAT Dates

Send to scores to both UW (4854) and to the Robinson Center (9899).
Submitting Your Application

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

**Please note:** The Academy has a different application timeline than the regular UW freshman admissions process. **Please 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 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 letters of recommendation, preliminary reporting of your test scores, and an unofficial copy of your HS transcripts.

**PART 2: Complete the RC version of the UW Freshman Application.** After you have completed your RC profile, you will be prompted to begin the UW Freshman application online, through the RC website. 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 2020 is 4:30 PM on Monday, March 9th, 2020. Please fully complete and submit both parts of the online application by this date and time.

Application Checklist

**PART ONE**
- Robinson Center Profile (online)
- Two Required Teacher Recommendations (online)
  - One recommendation must come from an English/Language Arts, or Social Studies teacher
  - One recommendation must come from a Math or Natural Sciences Instructor
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 app.

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.

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:

- Up to Two Optional Recommendations (online)
- Non-Refundable Application Fee ($60, pay online – information about fee waivers is provided in the “Application Fee” section below)
- Unofficial High School Transcript
  - Must include final grades from first semester of 10th grade

PART TWO

- UW Freshman Application (online)
- Application Essays
  - Personal Statement
  - Short Response
  - Journal of Activities & Accomplishments
  - Additional Comments (optional)
  - Added Space (optional)
  - UW Academy Application Essay
- 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).

- (International students only) Student Score Report from TOEFL or IELTS exams
  - For the TOEFL, scores must be sent by the testing agencies to both the UW school code (4854) and to the Robinson Center (B378). IELTS scores should be sent to the Robinson Center mailing address.
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 providing you with letters of recommendation.
- Your SAT or ACT scores.
- An unofficial transcript from your High School (can often be downloaded as a .pdf from your high school's website/online student portal).

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. But you must remember to return to your application later to provide this information.

**Teacher Recommendations**

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 recommenders 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 recommendation forms will be sent to the recommenders that you identify. Students should approach these teachers ahead of time to request these recommendations, before the automated recommendation form is sent out.

**Required Teacher Recommendations**

Each Academy applicant must submit one recommendation from a Social Science or Humanities instructor (English, History, Language Arts, Social Studies) and one recommendation from a Math or Natural Sciences instructor (Math, Physical Science, Chemistry, etc). We are looking for recommendations from instructors who can speak to your academic accomplishments, practices, and potential. In addition, each teacher will be asked to testify to your academic skills in each of their individual subject areas.

**Optional Recommendations**

Up to two optional recommendations will be considered from teachers, coaches, supervisors, or other mentors who can speak to your talents in ways that your two required recommendations cannot. The individuals who submit optional recommendations may come from any subject area and from any educational program, including high school, summer programs, individual tutoring, or enrichment programs, etc. Example subject areas for this recommendation include World Language, Music, Marketing, Accounting, CAD, Psychology, Fine Arts, Sports, Leadership Programs, etc. No family members please.

This part of the online application also asks you whether you are willing to waive your rights to access your recommendations. This is a standard part of most university recommendation 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 can not be confident that the recommenders are submitting truthful and uncensored evaluations of your abilities and character.
ACT or SAT Student Score Report

UW Academy applicants may take either the ACT or the SAT Exam. **The UW Academy does not require or recommend that students take the Essay portion of either test.**

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 Washington Search 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.

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 for 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.

Application Fee

After completing your profile and the online portion of your UW Academy Application, you will be directed to pay a **non-refundable $60 application fee**. Your application is not complete until this fee has been paid.

Fee waivers are available for students with demonstrated financial need. When you go online to pay your fee (either by clicking the “Make a Payment” button at the end of the online application or by picking “Make a Payment“ from the menu on the left of the RC Account page) you will see a link to apply for financial aid. This link will lead you to a page where you can upload documentation demonstrating your financial need.

Currently, we accept two forms of documentation to qualify applicants for the fee waiver.

1. A 2018-2019 Free or Reduced Lunch letter from your school district
2. A 2017 or 2018 IRS 1040 form

If you have questions about the UW Academy application fee and the fee waiver criteria, please feel free to contact us at uwacad@uw.edu.

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 Academy Application. This application is structurally similar to the application that all UW Freshman 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 the 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 Admissions office, there are questions that are redundant or repetitive 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
- Detailed accounting of your past schooling experiences and coursework

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

**UW Freshman Application Writing Section**

At the end of Part Two, you will be given space to enter text for several required application essays. These are also a standard part of the UW Freshman Application.

UW Academy applicants must complete all of the Freshman Writing Samples, including the “Essay (A),” “Short Response (B),” and “Activities & Achievements (E).” The prompts for these essays are available for download on the Robinson Center website, under the “UW Academy” program page.

The “Additional Information About Yourself or Your Circumstances” (C) and the “Additional Space” (D) sections are optional. For more specific instructions for how to use these sections, consult the essay prompts that are available for download on the RC website.

All of these writing samples will be submitted by cutting and pasting your essay text into the UW Freshman 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! Your essay will be evaluated for both form and content, and so you want it to be as polished as possible!

**UW Academy Short Essay**

UW Academy applicants are also required to write one additional essay specifically addressing their reasons for seeking early entrance to college. The prompt for this essay can be found on the Robinson Center website under the “UW Academy” programs page. Students should treat this essay in the same way that they treat the essays for the UW Freshman Application Writing Section.
Communication with Applicants
Within one week of the application deadline, applicants will be notified by email that their complete application has been successfully submitted and placed “under review.” Decision letters will be mailed approximately 7-8 weeks after the application deadline; check our website for this year’s notification date ([https://robinsoncenter.uw.edu/programs/uw-academy/](https://robinsoncenter.uw.edu/programs/uw-academy/)). Please note that due to the volume of applications, we are unable to speak with applicants about the standing of specific applications during the application review process, after the submission deadline.

Admission Decisions
Up to thirty-five students are accepted into the UW Academy annually. In addition, a few applicants may be offered a spot on a wait list. Before making their decisions about whether to join the Academy, accepted students attend events during Academy Experience Week. During this time, accepted students are paired with a current Academy student for a “day-in-the-life” experience. Accepted students can also have an individual meeting with an Academy staff member. Academy Experience Week kicks off with an evening informational meeting for accepted students and their families.

The Academy cohort is usually set by the end of May. A reception welcoming new students and their families is held in mid-June, followed by parent 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 freshmen at the UW for 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 second semester of the 10th grade year. Final transcripts should be submitted as soon as the spring term of the sophomore year is complete and coursework and grades have been recorded on the transcript(s).

*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 Academy and UW 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.
Who can appeal?
All applicants are allotted one opportunity to appeal the decision of the application committee. Any denied applicant may appeal. Applicants that are waitlisted have not been formally denied and cannot appeal their position on the waitlist. They are eligible to appeal if they are denied after the waitlist period has expired. Generally, applicants petition if they believe their academic or personal circumstances could not be considered adequately through the standard admission review process or that an error occurred in the application review. *All appeals must be received within two weeks of the Academy’s admission decision.*

How do I appeal?
All students can view the current status of their application to the UW Academy by logging into their account on the RC website and clicking “View Applications” on the left column menu. When an application is officially denied, the application status will reflect this change and offer applicants a new link which they can follow to appeal the decision. Clicking on the “appeal” link will bring up a page where applicants can describe their appeal and upload up to three documents that contribute to the case they are presenting to the admission committee. We recommend preparing these materials prior to clicking the link.

What do I need to include in my appeal?
All appeals must include a *formal appeal letter* (no more than 3 typed pages), composed by the student applicant, which presents a clear and concise explanation of the applicant’s reasons for seeking reconsideration. Applicants should keep in mind that the application committee has already reviewed the original application. Typically, appeals present new information about the applicant or seek to provide additional explanation about aspects of the academic record that are not as strong, including information about circumstances and hardships, such as personal or family illness, factors related to a disability, or familial or cultural barriers that may have affected the applicant’s academic performance and record. Appeal letters should clearly explain why the applicant thinks they are a good candidate for the UW and why they are in need of the highly accelerated education offered by the UW Academy.

Additionally, appeals may include (but do not require) supporting materials like updated transcripts, additional letters of support, or other documentation of the student’s experience.

What is the process for considering appeals?
All appeals are considered by the Robinson Center admission committee, which will reconsider each case and make decisions based on the information provided. If the RC admission committee decides not to support the appeal, it will be taken to the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Academic Affairs, where it will be considered again in an independent review by Dean’s office staff. Final decisions will come from Dean’s Office.
Summer & Fall Programming

Newly admitted UW Academy students attend a group academic counseling session with Academy staff in late June. Following this session, students attend a two-day UW Advising & Orientation session in early July, when they register for Fall quarter classes and learn more about University requirements.

In September, typically 2 weeks before UW classes begin, Academy students begin Academy Bridge. Academy Bridge is comprised of Academy Camp followed by a series of workshops and presentations on campus with Academy staff and students. New students also have the first sessions of their Academy courses during Academy Bridge. Camp and Bridge programming is designed to support students in their transition to the university setting.

During fall quarter, students take two required courses with their Academy peers: a seminar and a linked writing course. Currently the seminar focuses on the topic of “the Neurobiology of Consciousness” and is taught by Professor William Moody, Director of the Undergraduate Program in Neurobiology and Professor of Biology. The linked writing course is taught by Professor Henry Laufenberg, a Senior Lecturer in the English Department's Interdisciplinary Writing Program. Both courses were developed specifically for Academy students and are taught by professors who understand Academy students’ unique characteristics and needs.

All Academy academic advising and Bridge programming in Spring, Summer, and early Fall is REQUIRED for incoming Academy students.

Paying for University

With a few exceptions, UW Academy students who are Washington State residents pay resident tuition to the UW. Academy students who are not Washington State residents pay non-resident tuition to the UW in addition to the UW Academy Non-Resident Fee for their first and second years at the UW.

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 fafsa.ed.gov 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 (fafsa.ed.gov).

WASFA is used to determine undocumented students' eligibility for state financial aid. If eligible for WASFA you will have access to in-state tuition, 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 (https://readysetgrad.wa.gov/wasfa-

The UW FAFSA and WASFA application priority deadline is in mid-January, prior to the Academy application deadline. If you intend to access financial aid, do not wait for an Academy admissions decision to apply for aid. Students and families can still submit the FAFSA but not the WASFA after the January deadline. Submitting FAFSA after the priority deadline will affect both the amount of support and the kinds of funding that are offered.

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 (e.g. NASA Space Grant and National Merit). Applying for these awards necessitates advance planning as the deadlines are often in the winter. We supply a letter explaining the Academy and its application process for students to submit along with their applications for local and national scholarships. Email us at uwacad@u.washington.edu to request a letter.

See the UW Admissions website (admit.washington.edu/Paying/) and the Office of Merit Scholarships, Fellowships & Awards website (expd.washington.edu/scholarships/omsfa) for more information about financing your education.

UW Disability Resources & Services

UW Disability Resources for Students Office
The University of Washington is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodations in its services, program, activities, education, and employment for individuals with disabilities and other chronic conditions. For information or to request accommodations please contact:

UW Disability Resources for Students
depts.washington.edu/uwdrs/
206-543-8924 (v), 206-616-8379 (fax)
Email: uwdrs@uw.edu

Disability Resources Q&A (U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights)  
For more information see: www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/transition.html

UW Disability Resources FAQ

As a student with a disability leaving high school and entering post-secondary education, will I see differences in my rights and how they are addressed?
Yes. Section 504 and Title II protect elementary, secondary and post-secondary students from discrimination. Nevertheless, several of the requirements that apply through high school are different from the requirements that apply beyond high school. For instance, Section 504 requires a school district to provide Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to each child with a disability in the district’s jurisdiction. Whatever the disability, a school district must identify an individual’s education needs and provide any regular or special education and related aids and services necessary to meet those needs as well as it is meeting the needs of students without disabilities.

Unlike your high school, your post-secondary school is not required to provide FAPE. Rather, your post-secondary school is required to provide appropriate academic adjustments as necessary to ensure that it does not discriminate on the basis of disability. In addition, if your post-secondary school provides housing to non-disabled students, it must provide comparable, convenient and accessible housing to students with disabilities at the same cost.

**May a post-secondary school deny my admission because I have a disability?**

No. If you meet the essential requirements for admission, a post-secondary school may not deny your admission simply because you have a disability.

**Do I have to inform a post-secondary school that I have a disability?**

No. However, if you want the school to provide an academic adjustment, you must identify yourself as having a disability. Likewise, you should let the school know about your disability if you want to ensure that you are assigned to accessible facilities. In any event, your disclosure of a disability is always voluntary.

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**Frequently Asked Questions About the UW Academy Application**

**One of my teachers hasn’t filled out their recommendations for me yet and I’m worried they won’t finish in time.**

You should receive an email every time a teacher finishes a recommendation for you, so make sure you have received emails regarding all of your recommenders. If you have not, politely remind them about their recommendation and about the due date of the application. If your recommender needs our email prompt resent to them, contact the UW Academy Student Services Team at uwacad@uw.edu or 206-616-0561.

**I’m having trouble logging in to my online application. What do I do?**

Contact our Student Services Team (at uwacad@uw.edu or 206-616-0561) to reset your password. DO NOT make a second account because that will make reviewing your application very confusing, and could result in us marking your application as incomplete.
How do I enter my grades in the 7/8th grade coursework section of the UW application? Is it required? There's not enough space!

If you took classes in middle school that you received high school credit for, then this section is required. You may have to contact your middle school for a transcript or grade report in order to fill it out. We understand that there is not enough room to put in semester grades, so please just summarize your grades and classes as best you can.

For my high school grades, what do I put in the course notation column?

In this section, the only notation we are concerned with is whether the class is Honors, AP, IB, or some other notation related to advanced coursework. Otherwise, you can leave this column blank.

I already paid my Academy application fee, but the online application is telling me I still have a $60 balance. What’s going on?

This is an occasional bug in our application system. Call the Robinson Center (RC Main: 206-543-4160) and we will fix the issue.