



Application for Admission

2010

Tennessee Governor's Academy for Mathematics and Science
2730 Island Home Boulevard Suite 201
Knoxville, TN 37920

govacad@tennessee.edu <http://tga.tennessee.edu> 865.946.3673

Applicant Instructions

- ✪ Please read through the entire application packet before completing or distributing any portion of it. Take particular note of instructions that pertain not only to you as an applicant but also to those who will serve as your references. **All applications due by FEBRUARY 15, 2010.**
- ✪ Register to take the PLAN, ACT, PSAT, and/or SAT during your sophomore year. See your school counselor for assistance in signing up for a national test date.
- ✪ If you take the ACT or SAT at a national test site (Saturday morning administration), please request that your tests scores be sent directly to Tennessee Governor's Academy by using this appropriate code: 431103.
- ✪ Request that an official transcript from grades seven through the first semester of your sophomore year be sent directly to Tennessee Governor's Academy. A transcript issued to you is not acceptable unless it is in a sealed school letterhead envelope with your school counselor's or registrar's signature across the flap.
- ✪ Solicit recommendations from the appropriate teachers, administrators, and/or gifted and talented coordinator. Any additional references will be included in your file but are not required. Each recommendation form may be sent directly to Tennessee Governor's Academy from the person who completes it or may be given to you in a sealed school letterhead envelope with the submitter's signature across the flap.
- ✪ Use black or blue ink or type all information requested on the application and essays. Check your work for accuracy and completeness. Correct spelling and grammar are very important. Make a file copy of all correspondence and materials you send to Tennessee Governor's Academy. All materials should be mailed to **Tennessee Governor's Academy for Mathematics and Science, 2730 Island Home Boulevard, Suite 201, Knoxville, TN 37920.**
- ✪ If you have questions, call Tennessee Governor's Academy at 865.946.3673.

The Application

All Tennessee residents who are high school sophomores and at least 15 years of age may apply for admission to TGA. Students should start and complete the application process their sophomore year in high school. Students must submit an application form, essays, transcripts, a standardized test score (ACT, SAT, PLAN, or PSAT), and four academic recommendations. Continued enrollment in the program at TGA is dependent upon satisfactory academic performance and compliance with all TGA expectations including residential and academic life policies. **All application materials are due NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 15, 2010.**

Equal Opportunity Statement

Tennessee Governor's Academy for Mathematics and Science does not discriminate based on race, sex, color, creed, national origin, age, or handicap. The sole purpose of gathering the information contained in this application is to ascertain the effectiveness of recruitment efforts in reaching all segments of the population and to ensure that proper facilities are available to serve all students selected for admission.

Instructions and Information, Continued

Additional Information

- ✪ The parent essay is not required, but it is recommended.
- ✪ Our Admissions Committee may ask you to submit additional information. This does not indicate a problem with your application. They may do this to supplement the information already received.
- ✪ Admissions offers and enrollment are contingent upon completing the sophomore year in accordance with TGA standards, including completion of Algebra I, II, and Geometry
- ✪ It is your responsibility to ensure that your application is complete.
- ✪ Following a paper screening process, semifinalists will be selected for a telephone interview to be held in March. The telephone interview lasts approximately 20 minutes. Following the telephone interviews, finalists will be invited to the TGA Experience.
- ✪ The TGA Experience, for all finalist applicants, will be held Friday and Saturday, April 9 and 10, 2010. You and your family are expected to be present both days.

Have you....

- Turned in the Admissions Application and essays
- Distributed Recommendations
 - Administrative
 - English
 - Mathematics
 - Science
- Signed-up for and/or taken the ACT, SAT, PLAN, and/or PSAT
- Requested that transcripts grades 7-10 (to-date) be sent
- Submitted a copy of your 10th grade schedule

Admissions Application

Section I: Applicant Information

Full Legal Name: _____

Home Address: _____

County of Residence: _____

Gender: M _____ F _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ - _____

E-Mail Address: _____

U.S. Citizen: Yes _____ No _____

Date of Birth: _____

Birthplace: _____

Educational Background

Current School (full name): _____

School Phone: _____ Public _____ Private _____ Boarding _____

Principal: _____ Guidance Counselor: _____

Please list all other schools attended during grades 7-10. (Official transcripts should be sent directly from your current school.)

School	City/State	Dates Attended
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Is English your first language? Yes _____ No _____
 If not, how long have you spoken English? _____

Does applicant have a handicap or health condition that requires special attention? *
 _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, please explain: _____

*Equal Opportunity Information: TGA does not discriminate based on race, sex, creed, national origin, age or handicap. The purpose of gathering this information is to ascertain the effectiveness of recruitment efforts and to ensure that proper facilities are available to serve all students selected for admission.

Student Filing Status

Are you a permanent resident of Tennessee? Yes _____ No _____

If you are not a permanent resident of the State of Tennessee, explain the circumstances that establish your eligibility to attend Tennessee public schools: _____

Family Information

Name(s) of parent(s) or legal guardian(s) with whom you live:

Name	Relationship	Name	Relationship
Address		Address	
City	State	Zip	
City	State	Zip	
Telephone	E-mail address	Telephone	E-mail Address

Do you have a sibling who has attended the TGA? Yes _____ No _____
 If yes, please list name and years of attendance: _____

Ethnic information is requested so that TGA can demonstrate compliance with federal requirements. Failure to respond will not affect this application. If you choose to answer, check the appropriate blank.

White, not Hispanic
 Black, not Hispanic
 Asian
 Alaskan Native
 Hispanic
 American Indian
 Other _____

Section II: Activities & Accomplishments

In order to thoroughly evaluate your application, we need to know more about you than we can learn through your grades, test scores, and recommendations alone. Please list your significant extracurricular activities in grades seven through 10. Indicate any leadership positions you held in these activities. Examples include music, drama, debate, student government, athletics, school publications, school- or community-sponsored clubs or activities, etc. You may attach an additional page if necessary.

Activity	Leadership Position	Dates

List any awards or honors you have received, both in and out of school, while in grades seven to 10. Examples include music performances, academic competitions, athletic contests, dramatic performances, forensic competitions, publications of articles or stories, community service, etc. Indicate whether each award was at the local, state, or national level. You may attach an additional page if necessary.

Award	Year	Individual or Team	Level

Section IV: Recommendations

Please list the names and schools of the administrator, and **current or most current** English teacher, mathematics teacher, and science teacher who will be filling out the recommendation forms.

Name	Subject or Title	School
Name	Subject or Title	School
Name	Subject or Title	School
Name	Subject or Title	School

Section V: Short Answer & Essay

Type or write legibly in black or blue ink. You may complete these on a separate sheet of paper.

1. What are your career goals, and how will attending TGA help you attain those goals? **OR**, Discuss reasons why TGA would be an appropriate educational opportunity for you. Include a description of your education interests and objectives.
2. When you are not at school, studying, or doing chores, what do you like to do? Of those that you listed, which is your favorite and why?
3. Discuss a time you spent away from home, without your parents, in the past three years. Where did you go? What was the purpose of the trip? How long were you away? Who else was on the trip with you? How did you feel about the experience?
4. Explain a situation in which you struggled academically. What did you do to overcome this difficulty? **OR**, Describe the most challenging academic course you have taken and how you met the challenge.
5. Discuss your time management skills.
6. Discuss an adjective that best describes you.
7. Are there any special circumstances, background information, or other factors (positive or negative) that have affected your performance in high school?
8. The Tennessee Governor's Academy is committed to the development of ethical leaders. Please describe a situation from your experience that required you to make an ethical decision about your behavior. Include what decision you made, why you made it, and the impact it has had on your life and/or those around you.
9. Please describe your personality and pet peeves. Then describe the personality / characteristics that you would like your roommate to have and explain why.
10. What should we have asked you? Please respond.

Parent/Guardian Essay (Optional)

On a separate sheet of paper, please address the areas of maturity, time management, and motivation that you have observed in your student during the past year. When you have completed the essay, please be sure both your name and your student's name are printed on the essay. Your signature will attest the parent/guardian essay is your authentic work.

Applicant: Please complete this section before giving these forms to your Science teacher. Ask the teacher to either mail it to the address at the bottom of the page OR to return it to you in a sealed, signed envelope.

Applicant's Full Legal Name _____

Applicant's Home Address _____

Science Teacher:

Please complete and sign this form. Either mail it to the address listed at the bottom of this form or return it to the student in a sealed letterhead envelope with your signature across the flap.

Your professional judgment about the applicant's academic abilities and personal characteristics will help us conduct an evaluation that take into account considerably more than grades, standardized test scores, and specific awards and activities. We believe that reports from teachers and other school officials that include anecdotal information or descriptions of specific behaviors are most helpful. Your recommendation, along with those written by teachers in the disciplines of English and Mathematics, will be combined with the student's completed application form and other information for review by the Admissions Committee.

Please answer the following two questions (attach an additional sheet if necessary). Please note below the criteria the Admissions Committee will use when reviewing applications.

1.) Indicate behaviors that mark the student's potential for scientific reasoning (as outlined in the section below).

2.) Please describe this student's style of preparation, such as lab projects or classroom discussions.

The Admissions Committee will rate students on their potential for mathematical reasoning, scientific reasoning, communication skills, interpersonal skills, and various performance abilities. Your judgments about the applicant's potential are very important. We are interested in the degree to which the student:

- Seeks precision in responding to questions;
- Recognizes concepts communicated through symbols;
- Strives for accuracy in data analysis;
- Strives for accuracy in observations;
- Makes predictions or forms hypotheses based on theoretical understanding;
- Recognizes relevant information including the identification of patterns;
- Deals in an orderly manner with the parts of a complex whole;
- Exhibits critical thinking abilities, including the ability to analyze, integrate, and evaluate data.

Print your name: _____ Title: _____

School Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____



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Science Teacher, Continued

Among the students I have encountered in my _____ years of teaching, in terms of reading and writing skills, this student ranks in the (circle one)

Upper 1-2% Top 5% Top 10% Top 25% Top 50% Lower 50% N/A

How would you describe this student's work and study habits?

	Outstanding	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Poor
Ability to stay focused					
Completion of assignments					
Quality of work					
Ability to work alone					
Ability to work in groups					

How would you describe the student's conduct and behavior in class on the following dimensions?

	Outstanding	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Poor
Interactions with adults					
Ability to follow class/school rules and procedures					
Interactions with students					
Performance in group activities					

How does this student handle failure, criticism, and viewpoints other than his/her own? (Circle all that apply)

Learning tool Seriously Considers Becomes Defensive Becomes Argumentative Ignores It

Other: _____

Please rate this student's interest and enthusiasm for science. (Circle one)

Demonstrates a great deal of interest and enthusiasm Demonstrates some interest and enthusiasm Demonstrates little interest and enthusiasm

Science Teacher, Continued

Personal Qualities

Please assess the student in each of the following areas by filling in the appropriate circle.

	Outstanding	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Poor	No Basis for Judgment
Motivation						
Independence						
Leadership						
Maturity						
Social Adaptability						
Social Responsibility						
Challenge Acceptance						
Emotional Stability						
Academic Performance						
Desire to be Challenged						

Please explain any disciplinary or attendance concerns regarding this applicant

Comments

Use this space to provide any additional information that the Admissions Committee should consider when evaluating this student's application. Include information concerning any obstacles this student has had to overcome in pursuing his or her educational goals, if appropriate.

Deadline for submission is FEBRUARY 15, 2010.

Applicant: Please complete this section before giving these forms to your Mathematics teacher. Ask the teacher to either mail it to the address at the bottom of the page OR to return it to you in a sealed, signed envelope.

Applicant's Full Legal Name _____

Applicant's Home Address _____

Mathematics Teacher:

Please complete and sign this form. Then either mail it to the address listed at the bottom of this form or return it to the student in a sealed letterhead envelope with your signature across the flap.

Your professional judgment about the applicant's academic abilities and personal characteristics will help us conduct an evaluation that take into account considerably more than grades, standardized test scores, and specific awards and activities. We believe that reports from teachers and other school officials that include anecdotal information or descriptions of specific behaviors are most helpful. Your recommendation, along with those written by teachers in the disciplines of English and Science, will be combined with the student's completed application form and other information for review by the Admissions Committee.

Please answer the following two questions (attach an additional sheet if necessary). Please note below the criteria the Admissions Committee will use when reviewing applications.

1.) Indicate behaviors that mark the student's potential for mathematical reasoning (as outlined in the section below).

2.) How would you describe this student's work and study habits?

The Admissions Committee will rate students on their potential for mathematical reasoning, scientific reasoning, communication skills, interpersonal skills, and various performance abilities. Your judgments about the applicant's potential are very important. We are interested in the degree to which the student:

- Seeks precision in responding to questions;
- Recognizes concepts communicated through symbols;
- Strives for accuracy in data analysis;
- Recognizes relevant information including the identification of patterns;
- Deals in an orderly manner with the parts of a complex whole;
- Exhibits critical thinking abilities, including the ability to analyze, integrate, and evaluate data.

Print your name: _____

Title: _____

School Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____



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Mathematics Teacher, Continued

Among the students I have encountered in my _____ years of teaching, in terms of reading and writing skills, this student ranks in the (circle one)

Upper 1-2% Top 5% Top 10% Top 25% Top 50% Lower 50% N/A

	Outstanding	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Poor
Ability to stay focused					
Completion of assignments					
Quality of work					
Ability to work alone					
Ability to work in groups					

How would you describe the student's conduct and behavior in class on the following dimensions?

	Outstanding	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Poor
Interactions with adults					
Ability to follow class/school rules and procedures					
Interactions with students					
Performance in group activities					

How does this student handle failure, criticism, and viewpoints other than his/her own? (Circle all that apply)

Learning tool Seriously Considers Becomes Defensive Becomes Argumentative Ignores It

Other: _____

Please rate this student's interest and enthusiasm for mathematics. (Circle one)

Demonstrates a great deal of interest and enthusiasm Demonstrates some interest and enthusiasm Demonstrates little interest and enthusiasm

Mathematics Teacher, Continued

Personal Qualities

Please assess the student in each of the following areas by filling in the appropriate circle.

	Outstanding	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Poor	No Basis for Judgment
Motivation						
Independence						
Leadership						
Maturity						
Social Adaptability						
Social Responsibility						
Challenge Acceptance						
Emotional Stability						
Academic Performance						
Desire to be Challenged						

Please explain any disciplinary or attendance concerns regarding this applicant

Comments

Use this space to provide any additional information that the Admissions Committee should consider when evaluating this student's application. Include information concerning any obstacles this student has had to overcome in pursuing his or her educational goals, if appropriate.

Deadline for submission is FEBRUARY 15, 2010.

Applicant: Please complete this section before giving these forms to your English teacher. Ask the teacher to either mail it to the address at the bottom of the page OR to return it to you in a sealed, signed envelope.

Applicant's Full Legal Name _____

Applicant's Home Address _____

English Teacher:

Please complete and sign this form. Then either mail it to the address listed at the bottom of this form or return it to the student in a sealed letterhead envelope with your signature across the flap.

Your professional judgment about the applicant's academic abilities and personal characteristics will help us conduct an evaluation that take into account considerably more than grades, standardized test scores, and specific awards and activities. We believe that reports from teachers and other school officials that include anecdotal information or descriptions of specific behaviors are most helpful. Your recommendation, along with those written by teachers in the disciplines of Mathematics and Science, will be combined with the student's completed application form and other information for review by the Admissions Committee.

Please answer the following two questions (attach an additional sheet if necessary). Please note below the criteria the Admissions Committee will use when reviewing applications.

1.) Identify any strengths and/or weaknesses that would assist or impede this student's transition to the challenging academic program at TGA.

2.) How would you describe this student's work and study habits?

The Admissions Committee will rate students on their potential for mathematical reasoning, scientific reasoning, communication skills, interpersonal skills, and various performance abilities. Your judgments about the applicant's potential are very important. We are interested in the degree to which the student:

- Seeks clarity, precision, and coherence in oral and written communications;
- Demonstrates fluency in diction and variety in sentence structure;
- Demonstrates skill in literary analysis and criticism;
- Recognizes relevant information, including the identification of patterns;
- Deals in an orderly manner with the parts of a complex whole;
- Exhibits critical thinking abilities, including the ability to derive general principles from particular instances and draw conclusions from stated premises;
- Demonstrates originality and imagination in communications; and
- Reads actively and reflectively.

Print your name: _____

Title: _____

School Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____



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English Teacher, Continued

Among the students I have encountered in my _____ years of teaching, in terms of reading and writing skills, this student ranks in the (circle one)

Upper 1-2% Top 5% Top 10% Top 25% Top 50% Lower 50% N/A

Assess this student's oral and written communication skills. (Circle one.)

Outstanding Above Average Average Below Average Poor

	Outstanding	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Poor
Ability to stay focused					
Completion of assignments					
Quality of work					
Ability to work alone					
Ability to work in groups					

How would you describe the student's conduct and behavior in class on the following dimensions?

	Outstanding	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Poor
Interactions with adults					
Ability to follow class/school rules and procedures					
Interactions with students					
Performance in group activities					

How does this student handle failure, criticism, and viewpoints other than his/her own? (Circle all that apply)

Learning tool Seriously Considers Becomes Defensive Becomes Argumentative Ignores It
 Other: _____

Please rate this student's interest and enthusiasm for the humanities. (Circle one)

Demonstrates a great deal of interest and enthusiasm Demonstrates some interest and enthusiasm Demonstrates little interest and enthusiasm

English Teacher, Continued

Personal Qualities

Please assess the student in each of the following areas by filling in the appropriate circle.

	Outstanding	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Poor	No Basis for Judgment
Motivation						
Independence						
Leadership						
Maturity						
Social Adaptability						
Social Responsibility						
Challenge Acceptance						
Emotional Stability						
Academic Performance						
Desire to be Challenged						

Please explain any disciplinary or attendance concerns regarding this applicant

Comments

Use this space to provide any additional information that the Admissions Committee should consider when evaluating this student's application. Include information concerning any obstacles this student has had to overcome in pursuing his or her educational goals, if appropriate.

Deadline for submission is FEBRUARY 15, 2010.

Applicant: Please complete this section before giving these forms to your principal, school counselor, or gifted/talented coordinator. Ask the person completing the recommendation to either mail it to the address at the bottom of the page OR to return it to you in a sealed, signed envelope.

Applicant's Full Legal Name _____

Applicant's Home Address _____

Principal, Counselor, or Gifted/Talented Coordinator:

Please complete and sign this form. Attach an up-to-date transcript from grade seven to at least the first official grading period of the 10th grade, whether quarter, trimester, or semester, (with your signature or school seal) then either mail it to the address listed on the bottom of this form or return it to the student in a sealed letterhead envelope with your signature across the flap.

Your professional judgment about the applicant's academic abilities and personal characteristics will help us conduct an evaluation that take into account considerably more than grades, standardized test scores, and specific awards and activities. We believe that reports from teachers and other school officials that include anecdotal information or descriptions of specific behaviors are most helpful. Your recommendation, along with those written by teachers in the disciplines of English, mathematics, and science, will be combined with the student's completed application form and other information for review by the Admissions Committee. (Attach an additional page if necessary.)

Please complete: - Attach official transcripts for 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th (to date)

-Include class schedule for second semester of current school year.

-Applicant's G.P.A. is _____ based on a _____-point scale.

-Class rank is _____ out of a class of _____ students.

Print your name: _____ Title: _____

School Name: _____

School Telephone

Number (____) _____ - _____

E-Mail: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Does your school offer honors, G/T, AP, or accelerated courses? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, how are students identified for participation in these courses? (Indicate if self-selection is permitted.)

Is this student enrolled in honors, G/T, AP, or accelerated courses? Yes _____ No _____

Has this student taken maximum advantage of the academic opportunities available at your school for his/her grade level? Yes _____ No _____



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Has this student incurred (yes/no):

- serious or repeated disciplinary action,
- been suspended,
- had excessive absences,
- excessive tardies
- been expelled,
- or left voluntarily for an extended period of time?

Please explain any yes answers:

Please classify the amount of contact you have with the applicant:

- Minimal
- Occasional
- Frequent

Please comment about the student's potential to perform college level work.

Based on your interactions with the students and his or her family members, please rate the degree of support this student received for learning and school achievement from home (circle one).

Excellent Support Good Support Minimal Support No Support Evident No Basis for Judgment

Personal Qualities

Please assess the student in each of the following areas by filling in the appropriate circle.

	Outstanding	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Poor	No Basis for Judgment
Motivation						
Independence						
Leadership						
Maturity						
Social Adaptability						
Social Responsibility						
Challenge Acceptance						
Emotional Stability						
Academic Performance						
Desire to be Challenged						

Comments

Please attach any additional information that the Admissions Committee should consider when evaluating this student's application. Include information concerning any obstacles this student has had to overcome in pursuing his or her educational goals, if appropriate.

Deadline for submission is FEBRUARY 15, 2010.