



The Carol Martin Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky Student Admissions Packet for the Class of 2010

Dear Prospective Applicant,

We are excited that you have shown an interest in enrolling at the Carol Martin Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky. The mission of the Gatton Academy is to offer a residential program for bright, highly motivated Kentucky high school students who have demonstrated interest in pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Each year the Gatton Academy admits 60 Kentucky students who apply during their sophomore year and are awarded admission based on standardized test scores, grades, responses to essay questions, recommendations, and personal interviews. Instead of spending their junior and senior years in traditional high schools, students enrolled in the Gatton Academy live in a uniquely dedicated Academy residence hall. Taking courses offered by Western Kentucky University, their classmates are fellow Gatton Academy students and WKU undergraduate students.

At the end of two years, Gatton Academy students will have earned sixty college credit hours in addition to completing high school. The goal is to enable Kentucky's exceptional young scientists and mathematicians to learn in an environment which offers advanced educational opportunities, preparing them for leadership roles in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The Gatton Academy also seeks to provide its students with the companionship of peers; to encourage students to develop the creativity, curiosity, reasoning ability, and self-discipline that lead to independent thought and action; and to aid students in developing integrity that will enable them to benefit society.

The admissions process begins with the completion of the Gatton Academy Student Admissions Packet before you. After the February 15, 2008, deadline, the Admissions Committee will review all applications and select students to participate in formal interviews during the second phase of review. From there, the Admissions Committee will select the final 60 students as part of the Class of 2010.

If you require assistance at any point during the admissions process, do not hesitate to contact the Gatton Academy office. We are here to help you embrace the infinite possibilities that lie ahead.

Sincerely,
Corey Alderdice
Assistant Director, Admissions and Public Relations

Requirements for Admission

Before completing the application, please ensure you qualify for admission to the Academy.

Academy students must

- **be a current resident of the state of Kentucky,**
- **be a sophomore or have achieved sophomore status,**
- **complete Geometry and Algebra II before enrollment, and**
- **score a minimum 22 math on the ACT or score a minimum 500 math on the SAT.**

Application Instructions

The applicant must return the completed application packet postmarked by February 15, 2008, to

Admissions Committee
The Carol Martin Gatton Academy of
Mathematics and Science in Kentucky
WKU
1906 College Heights Blvd. #71031
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1031

Please note that some questions will need to be answered on separate pages and attached to the application packet.

The applicant must

- **ask a guidance counselor to submit a complete transcript (for grades 9 and 10) to the above address,**
- **submit sections A through G of this packet to the above address, with section H being optional,**
- **submit an official ACT or SAT score report to WKU (codes on page 3),**
- **submit a current photograph; and**
- **obtain four (4) recommendations (see pages 5, 6, 7, and 8 of this packet).**

Student Name: _____

Section A: Applicant Information

Student Name: _____
Last First Middle Prefer to be called

Mailing Address: _____
Street Apartment

City Zip

Home phone: (____) _____ Cell phone: (____) _____ Birthday: ____/____/____
Month Day Year

Gender: Male ___ Female ___ Social Security Number: ____-____-____

Current grade level in school: _____ Email address: _____

Guardian: _____ Guardian: _____
Title Full Name Relationship Title Full Name Relationship

Address (if different from applicant) Address (if different from applicant)

Home phone Cell phone Home phone Cell phone

Email address Email address

Residency Status: The Gatton Academy requires domicile and legal residency in Kentucky prior to admission.

- a. I have been a permanent resident of Kentucky since _____ .
- b. My residence is in _____ County.
- c. My parent(s) filed a Kentucky Income Tax Return as a Kentucky Resident in : 2006 ___ 2007 ___
- d. My parent or legal guardian is currently on active military duty at Ft. Knox or Ft. Campbell. Yes ___ No ___

The Gatton Academy does not discriminate on the basis of ethnicity, gender, religion, disability, or sexual orientation. The ethnic origin information is purely voluntary and is used for office records only.

Ethnic Origin:
___ Non-resident Alien ___ Black/African American ___ American Indian or Alaska Native
___ Asian or Pacific Islander ___ Hispanic or Latino ___ White

Section B: Current School and District Information

Current High School: _____ School District: _____

School Address: _____
Street City Zip

Guidance Counselor: _____
Name Office Phone Email

High School Principal: _____
Name Office Phone Email

Superintendent: _____
Name Office Phone Email

Central Office Address: _____
Street City Zip

Section D: Applicant Response Questions

Please respond to the following questions on separate pages and attach to the completed application packet. Responses should be between 500 and 750 words each. When possible, responses should be typed in 12 point Times New Roman font and single-spaced. Answer the questions fully and with detail. Responses are used by Admissions staff members to gage the maturity, individuality, and personality of applicants.

1. If you are selected for the Gatton Academy, you will be asked to live, study, and work in a community in which all members contribute. Why do you want to attend the Gatton Academy? Describe the contributions you feel you will make to the Gatton Academy.

2. Describe a project or task you have completed independently. This may include a school activity, an extracurricular activity, a community project, or research. What did you learn from this experience?

3. Living away from home may present significant challenges. Describe a situation in which you have experienced difficulty, overcome adversity, or faced an ethical question. Explain how you coped with this situation and what you learned from it.

4. What evidence do you have of your interests in the STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)? In which of these fields do you intend to place an emphasis in your studies at the Gatton Academy?

Section E: Parental Statement

To be completed by parent/guardian on separate pages and attached to this application.

Please explain how the Carol Martin Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science can enhance your child's education. Provide any additional information that the Admissions Committee should consider when evaluating your child's application to the Gatton Academy.

Section F: Release of Confidential Information

Please read carefully and complete the following:

The information given herein is true and accurate. We understand that knowingly withholding necessary information requested by this application or giving false information will make the applicant ineligible for admission to the Gatton Academy.

For the Applicant:

I hereby affirm that all the information on this application is correct and that all written responses are my original work. I hereby request that academic records and transcripts supporting my request to apply to the Gatton Academy to be made available to Gatton Academy officials (in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974).

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

For the Parent or Guardian:

I hereby give permission for my child to apply to the Carol Martin Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky. I hereby give my permission for my child's high school(s) to release his/her academic records and transcripts with this application (in accordance with Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974).

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Section G: Applicant Recommendations

The Gatton Academy requires the following four recommendations:

- one from a current or former high school math or science teacher;
- one from a current or former high school English or writing teacher;
- one from a guidance counselor, administrator, or someone else in the applicant's school or community (i.e., a scout leader, youth group coordinator, another teacher) who can comment on the applicant's general academic aptitude, leadership ability, emotional maturity, integrity, and preparation for the rigorous academic program offered by the Gatton Academy; and
- one from another person of the applicant's choice.

At least two of these recommendations must be completed on the Gatton Academy Recommendation Form found on pages 6 through 8 of this packet. Copies of this form should be made as needed. An electronic version of the form is also available on the Gatton Academy website (www.wku.edu/academy/admission.htm) for completion. All recommendations must be accompanied by the Cover for Recommendation found on page 6 of this packet.

The other two recommendations may be on the Recommendation Form, or they may be formal letters of recommendation. This option is to allow a recommender with a unique relationship to the applicant an opportunity to provide a picture of the applicant from a more intimate perspective than the standard recommendation form allows.

The Gatton Academy also encourages applicants to ask for recommendations from **more** than these four people to avoid missing the deadline and to ensure that the Admissions Committee receives the applicant's most representative academic profile.

Please be sure that those persons completing your recommendations understand the nature and rigor of the Carol Martin Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky. Applicants are encouraged to discuss the academic requirements of the Gatton Academy with those persons completing their recommendations and to direct them to the Gatton Academy website.

To ensure confidentiality and the utmost honesty in assessment, completed recommendations should be submitted directly to the Academy postmarked by February 15, 2008. **Completed recommendations should not be returned to the applicant. They should be mailed to**

Admissions Committee
The Carol Martin Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky
WKU
1906 College Heights Blvd. #71031
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1031



The Carol Martin Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky Cover for Recommendation

Please return this form and your formal letter of recommendation **postmarked by February 15, 2008. Do NOT return these forms to the student.** Please mail these forms to

Admissions Committee
The Carol Martin Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky
WKU
1906 College Heights Blvd. #71031
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1031

About the Gatton Academy

The mission of the Carol Martin Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky is to offer a residential program for bright, highly motivated Kentucky high school students who have demonstrated interest in pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Each year the Gatton Academy admits 60 Kentucky students who apply during their sophomore year and are awarded admission based on standardized test scores, grades, responses to essay questions, recommendations, and personal interviews. Instead of spending their junior and senior years in traditional high schools, students enrolled in the Gatton Academy live in a uniquely dedicated Gatton Academy residence hall. Taking courses offered by Western Kentucky University, their classmates are fellow Gatton Academy students and WKU undergraduate students. At the end of two years, Gatton Academy students will have earned sixty college credit hours in addition to completing high school. The goal is to enable Kentucky's exceptional young scientists and mathematicians to learn in an environment which offers advanced educational opportunities, preparing them for leadership roles in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. For additional information about the Gatton Academy, please visit our website (www.wku.edu/academy).

The Gatton Academy Admissions Committee relies on the perspective and experience of teachers, administrators, and community members like you to properly evaluate applicants. We sincerely appreciate your time and thoughtful consideration in the completion of this form and recommendation.

This form fulfills the required recommendation from a/an: _____ Math or Science Teacher
 _____ English or Writing Teacher
 _____ Counselor, Administrator, or Community Leader
 _____ Person of the Applicant's Choice

Applicant's Name: _____

Your Name (print): _____ Length of Time Knowing Applicant: _____

Current School: _____ Role/Position: _____ Years Teaching: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email address: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

4. Given the curriculum provided by the applicant's school and the applicant's choice of coursework, do you think this applicant has pursued rigor in coursework and is achieving at his/her potential?

5. Do you think the Gatton Academy would be a good fit for the applicant? Explain.

6. Please include any additional information not already addressed on the recommendation form that may be of use to the Admissions Committee.

Section H: Optional Information

This section is not required. It may be completed by a parent, guardian, or other individual with necessary knowledge of the applicant:

The Academy attempts to identify those applicants whose previous school grades or standardized test scores could underpredict academic success. Factors may include (1) a permanent physical disability or health issue; (2) a temporary health problem which significantly affected an otherwise exceptionally good academic record; (3) an economically disadvantaged environment; (4) completion of an exceptionally rigorous academic program; (5) limited English proficiency of the applicant or the applicant's family; or (6) other exceptional circumstances. If you feel this applicant is one for whom addressing the aforementioned issues is necessary for providing an accurate representation of his/her academic record, please indicate those factors and comment on them on separate pages. This information will be considered with the applicant's academic credentials.