

THE GATTON ACADEMY

of Mathematics and Science

KENTUCKY'S FIRST RESIDENTIAL STEM ACADEMY

The Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky is the Commonwealth's first two-year residential program for students interested in careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Instead of spending their junior and senior years in traditional high school settings, our students receive full scholarships to take all their coursework through Western Kentucky University with regularly-enrolled college students. Students at The Gatton Academy earn not only a high school diploma, but also an Associate Degree of Interdisciplinary Studies. The Gatton Academy empowers Kentucky's exceptional young scientists and mathematicians to learn in an environment which offers advanced educational opportunities while living in a supportive community.

STUDENT TRANSCRIPTS

Transcripts include unweighted grades earned from the sending high school (freshman and sophomore years) and grades earned from The Gatton Academy through Western Kentucky University (junior and senior years).

Unweighted GPAs are reported on a 4.0 scale.

- When adding WKU course credits to the high school transcript, three-hour university courses are converted to one high school course credit.
- After determining the quality points from both the home high school and WKU, a cumulative GPA is calculated on a 4.0 scale.

Weighted GPAs are tabulated for colleges who consider them. One quality point is added for each WKU course taken that is part of the Gatton core curriculum.

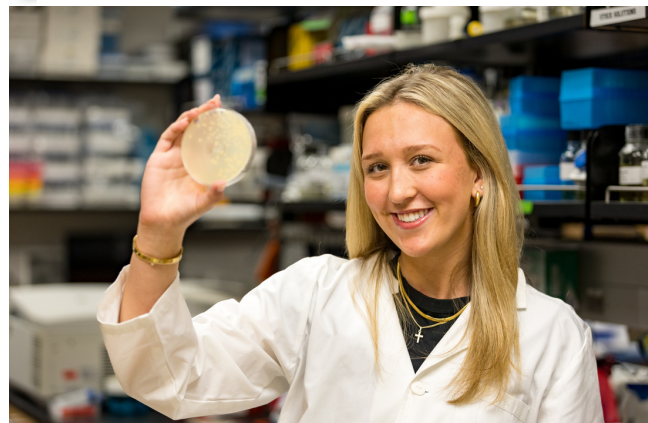
Coursework completed prior to Gatton is not weighted.

The Gatton Academy does not rank students or their GPAs.

CONTACT

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STUDENT SELECTION

Applicants are high school sophomores who have completed Geometry and Algebra II by the end of their sophomore year. Students are selected based on ACT or SAT scores; academic grades from ninth and tenth grades; interests in advanced careers in science, technology, engineering, and math; student responses to application essay questions; recommendation letters; and interviews. The application process is competitive, as approximately 30% of applicants who start the application process are accepted. The Gatton Academy accepts approximately 95 students each year, split evenly among males and females as space is available.

- Total Seniors: 94
- Total Students: 191
- Total Number of Counties Represented: 56
- Average % of Graduates ('08 -'26) attending colleges in-state: 59.5%
- Average % of Graduates ('08 -'26) attending colleges out-of-state: 40.3%

ACT SCORE RANGE

High (75%): 32

Low (25%): 28

Average: 30

SAT Scores converted to ACT equivalency

UNWEIGHTED GPA RANGE

High (75%): 4.00

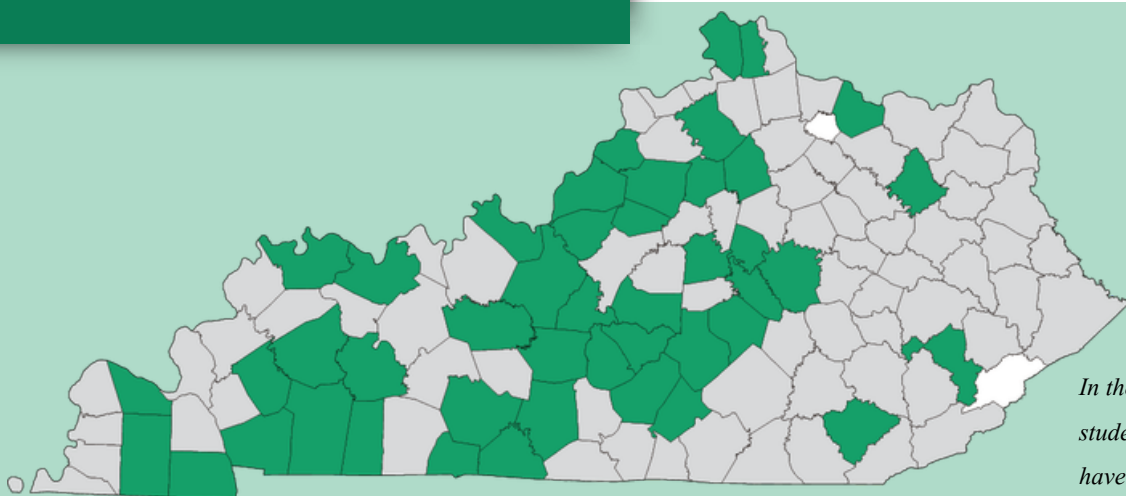
Low (25%): 3.74

Average: 3.84

GPA Data pulled 8-26-26

County Attendance

- The Class of 2027
- Past Attendance from County



In the program's first nineteen years, students from 118 of Kentucky's 120 counties have attended The Gatton Academy.

ACADEMIC CURRICULUM

The academic rigor of The Gatton Academy is meant to challenge students to excel at the highest levels, while drawing connections between the classroom and real-world research options. Students complete additional pre-college requirements as mandated by the Commonwealth of Kentucky. All coursework is taught at the college level by university faculty. In light of this, Gatton does not offer AP coursework.

MATHEMATICS (3-4 Courses)

Students are assigned their introductory math course based on prior coursework and placement exam scores administered by the Western Kentucky University Department of Mathematics.

- MATH 117 Trigonometry (3 Hours)
- MATH 136 Calculus I (4 Hours)
- MATH 137 Calculus II (4 Hours)
- MATH 237 Multivariable Calculus (3 Hours)
- MATH 307 Introduction to Linear Algebra (3 Hours)

CORE SCIENCE (5 Courses)

Students must take at least one biology, chemistry, computer science, and physics class. Additionally, students must complete at least one two-course STEM sequence.

- BIOL 120/121 Biological Concepts: Cells, Metabolism, and Genetics/Lab (4 Hours)
- BIOL 122/123 Biological Concepts: Evolution, Diversity, and Ecology/Lab (4 Hours)
- CS 180 Computer Science I/Lab (4 Hours)
- CS 290 Computer Science II/Lab (3 Hours)
- CHEM 120/121 College Chemistry I/Lab (5 Hours)
- CHEM 222/223 College Chemistry II/Lab (5 Hours)
- PHYS 255/256 University Physics I/Lab (5 Hours)
- PHYS 265/266 University Physics II/Lab (5 Hours)

ENGINEERING (1 Course)

Students must take a project-based engineering course.

- SEAS 368 Problem Solving (3 Hours)

STEM ELECTIVES (3-4 Courses)

Students choose from the following areas: agriculture, architecture, astronomy, biology, chemistry, communication sciences and disorders, computer science, engineering, environmental science, exercise science, geography, geology, healthcare administration, manufacturing, math, meteorology, nursing, physics, psychological sciences, and/or public health.

ENGLISH (2 Courses)

Students who score 29 or higher on the English portion of the ACT or a 650 or higher on the Critical Reading portion of the SAT receive credit for English 100 and begin with English 200.

- ENG 100 Introduction to College Writing (3 Hours)
- ENG 200 Introduction to Literature (3 Hours)
- ENG 300 Writing in the Disciplines (3 Hours)

US HISTORY (Up to 1 Course)

Students who have not documented completion of US History by August 15 before enrollment at The Gatton Academy enroll in HIS 241 United States Since 1865

ACADEMY SEMINAR (3 Courses)

- ACMS 175 Seminar I - Juniors (1 Hour)
- ACMS 175 Seminar II - Juniors (1 Hour)
- ACMS 175 Seminar III - Seniors (1 Hour)

August 2026

INSTITUTIONAL ACCOLADES

31

students and alumni
recognized by the Barry
M. Goldwater
Scholarship to date

126

research presentations given at
academic conferences in 25-26 year

3

U.S. Department of State
National Security
Language Initiative for
Youth (NSLI-Y)
Scholarships in 2026



21

National
Merit Semi-
Finalists in
25-26 year

CLASS OF 2027 PROFILE



65% of the Class of
2027 participated in
research or STEM +
Global Studies during
11th grade

9

students placed
in fully funded
summer research
internships

64

presentations
given at research
conferences
nationally &
internationally

- 17.0% Qualify for Free-Reduced Lunch
- 17.0% First-Generation College Students
- 19.1% From the Appalachian Region

As of August 2026, 94 students comprise the Class of 2027.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

At The Gatton Academy, community is one of our core pillars. We foster a vibrant social environment through over 30 student- run clubs and organizations. Students occasionally maintain membership in organizations at their sending schools, provided the organization is not offered at Gatton and participation does not violate Gatton's in-residence and class attendance policies. Gatton students may not participate in KHSAA sports. To ensure academic focus, part-time jobs are not allowed during the school term, although students may work during breaks. While there are limitations of our residential environment such as a set curfew and limited off-campus transportation which impact community involvement, these factors promote a balance between students' academic and social lives.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Gatton Academy students are the Commonwealth's future leaders. As such, to develop leadership skills and understand the impact each individual makes on their community, Gatton Academy students complete a minimum of 60 service hours outside of the Gatton community during their junior and senior years.

SCHOLARLY RESEARCH

Learning from one-on-one mentorship from university faculty, students work on STEM research projects beyond the classroom and take on research as an extracurricular scholarly pursuit. Students share their findings through presentations at local, state, and national conferences.

STEM + GLOBAL STUDIES

Students interested in intensive study in a foreign language may participate in The Gatton Academy's STEM + Global Studies program. Each semester, participants take one course in their chosen language: American Sign Language, Chinese, German, Japanese, Russian, or Spanish. Students take at least two semesters of language study and then may choose to complete the next two semesters in humanities coursework related to the region of their language. Students who participate in STEM + Global Studies often apply for competitive programs such the National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y).

STEM + BUSINESS

Students interested in intensive study in business may participate in The Gatton Academy's STEM + Business program. Each semester, participants take one course in their chosen track: Accounting, Analytics Information Systems, Data Science, Economics, Finance, Management, Marketing, or General Business. Students who participate in STEM + Business often apply for competitive internships and engage in business research.

STUDY ABROAD

Students may participate in study abroad opportunities to England for three weeks to fulfill an English requirement or to Costa Rica for two weeks to fulfill a biology STEM elective. 68 students in the Class of 2027 have studied abroad.