

WAVU Policies

WAVU is an all-day Saturday lab experience designed with early career exploration in mind. Gifted students typically begin thinking about college and career paths earlier than their same age peers and may not know what types of opportunities beyond the mainstream careers of doctor or lawyer are available to them. The single-day structure of WAVU allows us to provide advanced content through the lens of career and talent development in specific domains. Students may enroll in both fall and spring Saturdays, only the fall Saturday, or only the spring Saturday. Students may apply for both Saturdays with one application and one application fee.

Important Note

In the case of siblings, you will need to log out completely after submitting the first student's application, return to the main WAVU page, and then begin a new application for the sibling. Each child must have their unique account with their own unique credentials.

Admission Eligibility

Students applying to Weekends at Vanderbilt University must submit qualifying documentation to confirm eligibility. Students who test at the 85th percentile and above on a standardized achievement or ability test are eligible to participate in WAVU courses in their area(s) of strength. We accept any standardized achievement or ability test including, but not limited to, the following: RIAS, CogAT, TCAP, ERB, Stanford Achievement Test, OLSAT, Woodcock Johnson, WISC. Out-of-level standardized assessments (e.g., ACT, SAT) and talent search invitation letters (e.g., Duke TIP) are also accepted. While scores around the 85th percentile are typically a strong indication that WAVU is an appropriate curriculum match for a student, feel free to contact the PTY office for questions about scores that do not meet these criteria. Returning SAVY, WAVU, or VSA students do not need to resubmit test scores unless their scores are more than three years old. Students without test scores should work with their schools to obtain documentation of their assessments.

For more information about assessment (including out-of-level), contact Rosanna Forrest at 615.322.1181 or rosanna.forrest@vanderbilt.edu

Admissions Notification, Tuition Payment, and Required Paperwork

Applicants are notified of admissions decisions via email within 4 weeks of PTY receiving the fall application and within 6 weeks of receiving the spring application. If everything is complete, you will receive communication about placement. If application materials are found to be missing, PTY will notify you as soon as possible with a request for more information and with accompanying deadlines. For families who have applied for financial aid, financial aid information may be included in the admissions notice if financial aid materials have already been submitted. The admissions notice includes the tuition statement.

Fees and Tuition Costs

A nonrefundable application fee should be paid with this application for fall and/or spring. You may apply for fall and spring Saturdays with one \$35 application fee if you apply for both sessions at the same time. The \$35 application fee is nonrefundable regardless of a student's placement or admittance in a course.

Tuition for each WAVU Saturday is \$179 per Saturday.

Only the application fee is due when applying. You will receive a tuition statement via email concerning your student's placement in a ranked course. PTY does not collect full tuition until after your student has been admitted.

Financial Assistance

Vanderbilt Programs for Talented Youth is committed to making programs available to academically gifted students regardless of a family's ability to pay the full tuition. Therefore, need-based financial aid is available based on income. The PTY application review process is need-blind and does not consider financial status. If you plan to apply for financial aid, you may indicate this on your application and then access the application through the admissions section of the online application or through this link. The financial aid application can also be found on our website. You may apply for financial aid at any point in the application process.

Cancellation Policy

Cancellations made before the tuition due date will be eligible for a 100% tuition refund. After the tuition due date, no tuition refunds will be awarded. The application fee will not be refunded for any reason.

Inclement Weather Policy

Weather cancellations are unfortunate for all involved, but the safety of our students and families is top priority. Should it be in the best interest of our students and families that we delay or cancel our program due to inclement weather, we will issue a timely statement to our participants via email and also on our website. If a program cancellation is announced, tuition paid may be applied to a future program of the family's choosing, or if preferred, a tuition reimbursement may be issued. If, however, the program commences as planned, we are unable to offer a refund to individual students who do not attend. As is our policy, the application fee is nonrefundable. No matter the official program decision, it is always most important that each family make the safest travel decisions in regard to their own situation and program attendance.