

HOW DOES MY CHILD QUALIFY?

Students who score 90% or better on a standardized achievement test or have been recommended by a teacher, counselor, or parent are invited to participate in Northwestern University's Center for Talent Development (CTD) Assessment, a model that identifies students needing additional challenge by giving them above-grade-level testing. Through CTD Assessment students take the SAT or ACT exam either at WMU, a local school, or online. For information or to register, please go to: ctd.northwestern.edu/assessment.

Students can also choose to create a portfolio application. This process requires students to answer a brief self-assessment question, submit a work sample, and choose the program (math or English) for which they wish to be considered. School counselors will be required to provide grades and grade-level test scores for these applicants, and subject teachers will be asked to answer a recommendation survey. This qualifying method is intended for students who have issues with testing or need extra consideration.

ATYP holds informational meetings regarding the program, qualifying through testing or the portfolio, and the timeline for each in the fall of each year. See the website for specific dates. To qualify for the English program, students need a minimum subscore of 28 on the reading or writing portion of the SAT (with neither below a 24), or a minimum ACT score of 46 on the combined English + Reading sections, with neither score below a 22. For math, students need a 540 on the math section of the SAT or a score of 20 on the math portion of the ACT. ACT testers will also need a combined math and reading score of at least 38. A 570 (SAT) or 22 (ACT) score on the math portion is needed if the student has completed Algebra I. These numbers are subject to change as more data becomes available.

WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES?

Transportation: Parents are responsible for bringing students to class on time. Several school districts provide transportation to ATYP and parents form carpools. Transportation concerns should not prevent students from testing.

Additional Supplies: Math students will need a graphing calculator. Literature students purchase some paperback texts.

Support & Encouragement: With your support, students can adjust to the demands of these accelerated courses while developing time-management skills, problem-solving abilities, and a strong work ethic.

HOW MUCH DOES ATYP COST?

Funding: ATYP is funded through tuition payments and the support of Western Michigan University and the larger community. Funding from tuition provides approximately 75% of the revenue, with WMU and private donors contributing the other 25%, including administrative support, classroom space, and library access.

Costs: Tuition costs of \$400 to \$450 per semester per class are paid by participating public and charter schools for each enrolled student. Private schools may also pay tuition; however, if a private school does not cover the cost, families are responsible for payment.

Participation Fee: Families are responsible for \$150 in enrollment/ participation fees per year, per student. Portions of these fees are paid at enrollment and at the beginning of each semester. This is a non-refundable fee.

The Charles and Lynn Zhang Scholarship covers enrollment fees and provides a calculator (math students) or books (English students) for all students qualifying for free or reduced lunch.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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PARENT'S GUIDE: AN INTRODUCTION TO ATYP

TALENT

+ MOTIVATION

+ OPPORTUNITY

= SUCCESS



WHAT IS ATYP?

ATYP is the Academically Talented Youth Program at Western Michigan University's Office of Pre-College Programming. The program is designed to meet the needs of gifted and motivated students, beginning in middle school, who are searching for a challenging, fast-paced, and above-grade-level curriculum. Through personalized and intense instruction and rigorous coursework, students are prepared for AP (Advanced Placement) content after two years of ATYP classes. The program strives to teach students based upon their intellectual capacity, not their year in school. In the fall of each year, middle school counselors are asked to identify students in their schools who might qualify for the challenge of ATYP.

WHAT ARE THE COURSES LIKE?

Mathematics coursework emphasizes lively discussions and homework assignments that guide students to learn through reasoning, and the development of higher-level thinking. Students are challenged to think analytically and to acquire new problem-solving skills. English coursework encourages students to develop the process of written communication through intensive writing assignments, revision, and the creation of an extensive portfolio. During class time, students analyze a broad range of work from established writers, have lively discussions, practice public speaking, and learn how to write collegiate-level research projects. More information is available in specific course pamphlets.

WHO CAN ENROLL?

6th or 7th grade students with motivation to learn in above-grade-level, fast-paced curriculum can qualify to begin ATYP in 7th or 8th grade. Students may begin in middle school and continue until program completion.

ATYP TIMELINE

IN 6TH/7TH GRADE

FALL

STUDENTS INFORMED OF HOW TO BEGIN THE QUALIFYING PROCESS

OCTOBER TO DECEMBER

STUDENTS REGISTER FOR ATYP QUALIFYING TEST

DECEMBER TO MARCH

STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN ABOVE-GRADE-LEVEL TESTING OR SUBMIT A PORTFOLIO

JANUARY TO APRIL

SCORES RECEIVED IN ATYP OFFICE

APRIL TO MAY

STUDENTS ARE NOTIFIED OF ATYP QUALIFICATION STATUS

MAY

QUALIFYING STUDENTS INVITED TO ATTEND INFORMATIONAL MEETING

HOW HEAVY IS THE CLASS WORK/HOMEWORK?

Due to the accelerated nature of the course, students receive significant homework that supplements the classroom time. Math students submit approximately 1500 solutions to problems over the course of the semester. Literature students write, analyze, and/or discuss over 35 essays. The students peer-edit and revise their own work. Most students find they spend 5-10 hours per week on homework outside of class time.

WHERE/WHEN ARE CLASSES OFFERED?

ATYP classes are held on the Kalamazoo (and sometimes the Battle Creek) campus of Western Michigan University on Tuesday through Thursday. Classes (Year I & II) meet one afternoon per week and follow the local public-school calendar.

