ENGINEERING SUMMER PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

By applying to the Engineering Summer Program (ESP), am I also considered for other programs at the University?

No, students who submit an ESP application are not automatically considered for other opportunities, programs and camps at UW-Madison. Although admission to UW-Madison is not the primary focus of the Engineering Summer Program, there is a strong record of successful admission to the University of Wisconsin-Madison from ESP alumni. The admission decision for ESP is not affiliated with admission to the university.

I have a friend that will be in the Madison area for the summer. Can I have a friend visit me while I am in ESP?

To ensure the safety of our students, we do not allow visitors from outside the program to visit during the program. The resident hall is monitored by program staff and video surveillance. All residents need an ID card to enter the living quarters. Family members are invited to the opening and closing ceremonies that take place on the first and last day of the program.

I would have to miss some of the program to do activities such as but not limited to family reunions, weddings, awards, family travel and sport camps. Should I still apply?

No, students that plan on missing more than the one permitted weekend are not encouraged to apply. ESP is designed to give students a feel for the college experience at a large university. Students are encouraged to stay and participate in planned programs and fieldtrips during the weekends. Students are permitted to go home for one weekend during the program. Students with no additional summer commitments will benefit greatly from the ESP experience. Student absences would disrupt the educational and community developmental process.

If I am selected for admission to ESP, how much will the program cost?

The program is 100% sponsored. There are no costs to the students once they arrive on campus. Students and families are required to finance and make travel arrangements to and from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Do my letters of recommendation have to come from my current math or science teacher?

Yes, we require a letter from your current math and science teachers. If you do not currently have a math or science teacher, your letters of recommendation should be written by a math and science teacher from your most recent semester. A letter of recommendation guideline is included in the application checklist.

May I send in additional materials that I feel will make my application stronger?

Due to the high volume of application materials we receive, we will not be able to accept materials beyond the required materials included in the checklist.
What if I do not have permanent residency status at the time I submit my application?

You must possess a permanent residency green card at the time you submit your application.

Are Social Security Numbers required to apply for the Engineering Summer Program?

The Program does not require applicants to provide their SSN on the application; however, selected students will have to provide the program with their SSN for administrative purposes. Students will be given a randomized student ID number to use during the course of the program.

Is there a format the recommender should use to complete the letter of recommendation?

A letter of recommendation checklist guide is listed in the application checklist. Students should let the person who is writing the letter know these writing guidelines.

How should I send the letters of recommendations?

You may choose to send the letters of recommendations with your other application material or have the recommender send the letters directly to the address on the application. Please note, if you decide to include the letters of recommendation with you other materials, they must be in a sealed envelope with the teacher’s signature across the seal using an official high school envelope.

Does the program accept late applications?

All applications must be postmarked or received by the application deadline including supporting material such as recommendations, application fee, and official transcripts. Incomplete applications and applications postmarked after the deadline may not be reviewed for admission.

May I fax or email an electronic version of my application and materials.

No, applications must be postmarked or delivered in person by the deadline.

When will I find out whether or not I was accepted into the Engineering Summer Program?

Decisions will be released by the second week of May. Accepted students will receive a phone call from the Director of the Engineering Summer Program.

Where will students be staying during the program?

Students will be living on the University of Wisconsin’s Lakeshore Campus located on Lake Mendota. Students will share a room with a fellow ESP participant. Students are housed in Dejope Hall and are decided into wings by gender. Each gender and wing will be supervised by trained housing staff.
How much homework/assignments is required of students?

The amount of homework and assignments is unique to the course and instructor. The program is academically rigorous, and does require commitment and effort. The core courses (Trigonometry or Calculus, Physics, Chemistry, Technical Writing, and Introduction to Engineering) will have assigned individual and group projects, papers and regular exams. The time spent on assignments and studying is unique to each student.

Will I have any free time during the program?

The ESP experience includes time allotted for coursework, meals, seminars, studying and workshops during the week. The weekend provides an opportunity for students to participate in planned activities and fieldtrips. During the week students, are typically in class from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. During the evening students will have the opportunity to engage in free time, study sessions, or work directly with faculty/students mentors.

I have two GPAs, weighted and unweighted. What GPA should I list on the application?

We require applicants to report their unweighted GPA on the application. The unweighted GPA does not factor in additional grade points for honors and advanced placement courses.