

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 for ESP alumni. The admission decision for ESP is not affiliated with admission to the University.

I have 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 residence 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 field trips 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 disrupt the educational and community development process.

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

The program is 100% sponsored, so 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 your most recent math/science teacher. A letter of recommendation guideline is included in the application.

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

Due to the high volume of applications we receive, we will not accept or consider anything beyond the required materials stated in the application.

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?

ESP does not require applicants to provide their SSN on the application. Accepted students must provide their SSN in order to receive their randomized student ID number necessary to participate in the program.

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

A letter of recommendation checklist is included in the application. Students should share these writing guidelines with their recommenders.

Does the program accept late applications?

All applications must be submitted by the posted deadline. Incomplete and/or late applications will not be reviewed for admission.

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

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

Where will students be staying during the program?

Students live in [Dejope Hall](#) in the University of Wisconsin's Lakeshore neighborhood, located on Lake Mendota. Students share a room with a fellow ESP participant. Students are divided into wings by gender and each wing is supervised by trained housing staff.

How much homework is assigned to students?

The amount of homework and assignments is unique to the course and instructor. The program is academically rigorous and requires commitment and effort. The core courses (Math, Physics, Chemistry, Technical Communications, and Introduction to Engineering) 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 and on weekends, students have the opportunity to enjoy free time, organize study sessions, or work directly with faculty/students mentors.

I have two GPAs, weighted and unweighted. Which 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.