Application Procedures

Application requirements include forms and copies, recommendations, transcripts/grades, test scores, and essays.
No incomplete applications are considered!

Each student is considered fully and thoroughly on the basis of his or her abilities and accomplishments as presented through the completed application. A decision cannot be reached on applications until all forms have been received.

Applications are considered as they are received. Applicants will be notified of their status (accept, wait-list, reject) within two weeks of receipt of a completed application.* Places will be reserved for 7th graders who do not receive test results until late spring. A deposit of $300 is due when acceptance is received. This **nonrefundable** program deposit of $300 reserves a place and will be applied against program fees. **This deposit indicates a commitment to attend TAG and reserves placement in classes and the residence hall.**

A "balance due" statement (all fees minus any scholarship awards) with a payment schedule will be sent. Half of the fees must be paid by April 8, and remaining fees by May 16. Program fees are not refundable after May 16 except for documented medical/family emergencies. Payment may be made by check, money order, VISA, or MasterCard. Students who register after the dates above are expected to make timely payments to meet required deadlines. Any other financial arrangements must be made with the Program Director.

Need-Based Scholarships

Limited need-based scholarship monies are available. Applicants will be notified of the amount of available monies upon acceptance. **Because scholarship resources are limited, students seeking financial assistance are advised to apply as early as possible.** Aid requests must include a completed Need-Based Scholarship Form (with all requested information provided), a copy of the Parents'/Guardians' 20132 federal income tax form—or, if it is not available, a copy of the 2012 return and a copy of the 2013 W-2 form(s). Scholarships are awarded on the basis of accurate information. Please complete the forms carefully and completely. Scholarship applications will be reviewed in late March.

Dates

Opening day is Sunday, July 6, 2014. Closing day is Friday, July 25, 2014.

Cost

The application fee is $35. The program cost is $3,875. This includes tuition, room and board (including linen service), books, and most supplies. Limited numbers of scholarships are awarded on the basis of need. All TAG students live on campus for the entirety of the program.

Applications will be accepted until space is filled.
However, early applicants are more likely to be placed in "first-choice" classes.

Important Dates and Deadlines

Nonrefundable program deposit ($300) due ..... Upon acceptance to TAG

Note: Students should accept or reject admission within one week of receiving notification.

First half of TAG fee due *..... April 8

Note: If accepted after this date, first half of fees are due upon acceptance.

Balance of TAG fee due *..... May 16

TAG Dates ..... July 6-25

Registration..... 12 P.M. - 2:00 P.M., July 6

Opening Ceremony ..... 3 P.M., July 6

Final Exams for morning classes ..... July 25

Parent Reception ..... 11:30 A.M., July 25

Closing Ceremony..... 2 P.M., July 25

*** Any other financial arrangements must be made with the Program Director.***

SMU will not discriminate in any employment practice, education program or educational activity on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability or veteran status. SMU's commitment to equal opportunity includes nondiscrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The Director of Institutional Access and Equity has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies.

Return completed forms to: Talented and Gifted Program • Southern Methodist University
P.O. Box 750383 • Dallas, TX 75275-0383
3101 University Blvd • Suite 163C • Dallas, TX 75275
If you have questions, please contact us at:
(214) 768-0123 • FAX (214) 768-3147 • gifted@smu.edu

Staff
Courses are taught by experts in their field; college professors, g/t teachers, and practitioners. A full-time director leads the residence hall activities. College students with strong academic backgrounds serve as Residential Assistants (RA's). Students are assigned to a clan group led by an RA who is trained in the special social and affective needs of the gifted student.

Instructional Strategies
Strategies that have been shown to be particularly effective in stimulating the interest and ability of gifted students are used in the classroom. In addition to more traditional methods, such as lecture and discussion, instructors use hands-on methods of learning that promote active participation and higher order thinking. Such hands-on strategies include debates, construction of models or plans, simulations, dramatic performances, and other demonstrations or projects.

Meals
Students will dine with the RA's and other TAG staff in the Umphrey Lee Cafeteria. Portions are generous and refills unlimited. Many vegetarian meals are available; hot entrees, fruits and salads are offered at each meal along with sandwiches and cereal. The fare is typically institutional.

Dress
Dress on campus is casual. Students may wear shorts, t-shirts, or other casual clothes that are neat, clean, and appropriate. Shoes are required.

Computers
Students may bring computers and other electronic equipment to camp at their own risk for use in their rooms, which should be kept locked. Computer labs are available in the afternoons and evenings.

Recreational Time
Each day, Monday through Friday, a recreational time is held at the close of classes. Students may participate in swimming, chess, music practice, fitness activities, impromptu sports, games, or just visit with friends. Students may checkout of the residence hall to visit the student center, library, etc. Study is always possible at this time.

Study Hall
All students are required to observe a quiet study time in their own rooms each evening.

Activities
Evening activities designed to be a blend of learning, entertainment and enjoyment are planned each night. Some of the activities that have been popular in the past involve musical performances, dance groups, student talents shows, bowling, and movies. Students may "opt out" of the activity only for supervised study.

TAG Group Time
There is a TAG group time each evening when RA 'families' meet. Lights out for students is 11:00 PM.

Weekend Events
Students attend Saturday morning classes. Special off-campus trips are planned for Saturday afternoons. In the past, trips have included ice skating, walking tours, and museum visits. All students participate. Sunday is a day to relax and rejuvenate. Students may plan to attend church services, sleep late, relax with their friends, or study. Several different worship services are held on or near campus. Students interested in attending religious services should make their wishes known at the beginning of the camp. Transportation to and from local religious services may be provided.

Closing Activities
SMU/TAG classes will end on Friday, July 25. Students have their lunch as usual following the morning class. Two adult family members are invited to a Parents' Reception. Immediately following the reception, parents and other family members may visit classrooms and meet TAG faculty. The closing ceremony will follow the visitation. Dress for TAG closing ceremony should be neat but not elaborate.

Grades
Letters from each student's teachers are sent to parents approximately three weeks after the session concludes. An official transcript can be obtained from the SMU Registrar's office at http://www.smu.edu/registrar/transcripts.asp. An unofficial transcript can be obtained through the students account at Access.smu.edu.

Vaccination Requirement
Effective January 1, 2012, Texas law requires that all new students under the age of 30 must provide documentation to the Health Center demonstrating that they have been vaccinated against Bacterial Meningitis within the past 5 years." SMU requires students to submit this proof 10 days prior to the first class day. The SMU Student Health Center (www.smu.edu/HealthCenter) has the bacterial meningitis vaccination available for a cost; you may make an appointment by calling 214-768-2141, or you can visit the Health Center's immunization clinic anytime from 9-11 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 on Wednesdays. You may also obtain a meningitis immunization at you doctor's office, a local pharmacy which provides immunizations, or the county health department. Otherwise, a conscientious exemption form may be obtained by completing a request for the form online at: https://webds.dshs.state.tx.us/immco/affidavit.shtm. We do not wish to discourage anyone from enrolling, so should you be applying and registering less than 10 days prior to the first day of class, please call the GSI office, 214-768-0123, to discuss options.

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The John Goodwin Tower Center for Political Studies Summer Scholarships for Talented and Gifted Students for the Study of Politics and Government

Southern Methodist University created The John Goodwin Tower Center for Political Studies to commemorate the late U.S. Senator whose life was dedicated to understanding the needs and challenges of a world that has become a global village. The mission of the Tower Center includes a commitment to developing new teaching programs which encourage outstanding students to undertake the study of politics and to enter public service.

John G. Tower
Teacher and Public Servant

In 1961, as an unknown university professor, John Tower ran in a special race to fill the U.S. Senate seat vacated by Lyndon Johnson, who was elected vice president in 1960. Tower won the special election and represented Texas in the United States Senate from 1961 until 1985. From 1981 to 1985 he chaired the Senate Armed Services Committee. After his retirement from the Senate, President Ronald Reagan appointed him as U.S. Negotiator on strategic nuclear arms with the rank of ambassador. The following year he chaired the President's Special Review Board after the Iran-Contra affair. In 1990, President George Bush appointed him as chair of the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board.

Throughout his public life, however, John Tower never ceased to be a university professor. While still a U.S. Senator, he lectured at Southern Methodist University, his alma mater; and upon his retirement from the Senate, he served as a Distinguished Lecturer and regularly taught a course on national security. John Tower died in a plane crash in New Brunswick, Georgia, on April 5, 1991.

The Tower Institute
A Summer Program in the Study of Politics and Government

As part of its mission, the Tower Center has established the Tower Institute. The Institute, a summer program for study of politics and government, is offered in conjunction with SMU's Talented and Gifted Program and is for TAG students. Beginning in the summer of 1997, up to five scholarships have been provided annually. Recipients of these scholarships will be designated "Tower Scholars." Unlike other TAG scholarships, Tower awards can be made based on merit as well as need-based.

Students wishing to be considered for a Tower Scholarship must apply to the Talented and Gifted Program and be formally accepted into the program. Potential recipients must also agree to enroll in the Political Science course offered, or (if a previous scholar) another designated course and to undertake some independent, preparatory work prior to the start of the official TAG Program.

In addition, those wishing to be considered as "Tower Scholars" must attach the following to the application forms for the Talented and Gifted Program:

1. **A brief letter asking to be considered for a Tower Institute scholarship;**
2. **A statement, not to exceed 300 words, explaining why the study of government and politics is important; and**
3. **A letter of recommendation from a social studies teacher who knows the applicant well.**

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