How does my child qualify?

Students must score at least 90% on a standardized achievement test or have been recommended by a teacher, counselor, or parent to qualify for participation in the Northwestern University Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS). Students take the SAT or ACT exam through NUMATS, a program of Northwestern University’s Center for Talent Development. This is a national model that identifies students needing additional challenge by giving them above-grade-level testing. Tests are given locally.

To register or for more information, please go to:
http://ctd.northwestern.edu/numats

ATYP holds informational meetings regarding the test and the talent search model in the fall. See our website for specific dates.

To qualify for ATYP using the SAT, students need to score a minimum of 520 in critical reading, writing, or math. If using the ACT, a minimum score of 19 is needed in math, or a minimum score of 46 on the combined English + Reading section, with neither score below a 22. A 560 (SAT) or 21 (ACT) score on the math portion is needed if the student has completed Algebra I. Reasonable reading skills are also needed to qualify for math.

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 50% of the revenue, with WMU and private donors contributing the other 50%, including administrative support, classroom space, and library access.

Costs:

Tuition costs of $300 to $350 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.

Processing Fee:

A $50 per student per year fee is paid by families upon registration in ATYP. This is a non-refundable fee. Exceptions may be made for families who move from the area. A fee waiver is available to qualifying families upon request.

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What are my responsibilities?

Transportation:

Parents are responsible for students arriving at ATYP classes on time. Some school districts may provide transportation and many parents form carpools. Transportation concerns should not prevent students from attempting to qualify.

Additional Supplies:

Math students are required to have a graphing calculator. Literature students are expected to purchase some paperback texts.

Support & Encouragement:

The accelerated nature of these courses may cause doubt in your student’s mind. With your support and patience, students are able to adjust to these new demands and develop time-management skills, problem-solving skills, and a strong work ethic.
What is ATYP?

ATYP is the Academically Talented Youth Program at Western Michigan University’s Lee Honors College. The program is designed to meet the needs of 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. ATYP 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.

Who can enroll?

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

Where/When are classes offered?

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

What are the courses like?

Mathematics coursework emphasizes lively discussions, 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 investigate and develop the process of excellent 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.

How heavy is the class work/homework?

Due to the accelerated nature of the course, students receive 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 40 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.

Who are the teachers?

ATYP instructors have advanced degrees in their areas of instruction and are selected for their expertise and skill in working with highly able adolescents. They are passionate about their students and the subjects they teach.

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ATYP Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall 6/7th Grade</th>
<th>Invitation to Consider ATYP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October to December 6/7th Grade</td>
<td>Sign Up for Northwestern University’s Midwest Academic Talent Search</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January to March 6/7th Grade</td>
<td>Participation in Above-Grade-Level Testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March to April 6/7th Grade</td>
<td>Scores Received in ATYP Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 6/7th Grade</td>
<td>Invitation to Qualifying Students to Attend Informational Meeting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Typical Course Progression

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ATYP</th>
<th>Year I</th>
<th>Year II</th>
<th>Year III</th>
<th>Also Available</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Arts</td>
<td>Honors English 9 &amp; 10</td>
<td>Honors English 11 &amp; 12</td>
<td>AP Literature &amp; Comp/ Language &amp; Comp</td>
<td>AP Computer Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Algebra I/II</td>
<td>Geometry &amp; Precalculus</td>
<td>AP Calculus at local school</td>
<td>Algebra Prerequisite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>7th or 8th</td>
<td>8th or 9th</td>
<td>9th or 10th</td>
<td>Contact ATYP for more information</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>