



West Virginia

**Governor's
Honors Academy**

2026 Student Application

Part II



Saturday, July 11-Saturday, July 25, 2026

West Virginia University
Morgantown, WV

QUALIFICATIONS

DO NOT COMPLETE PART II UNTIL YOU HAVE COMPLETED PART I

Required Qualifications:

- Complete Part I of the Application online located here:
<https://forms.office.com/r/03zXKCFhVi>
- Attend high school in West Virginia and plan to be in attendance next year
- A resident of West Virginia
- A junior at the time of application
- Must not graduate before January 2027
- Have a grade-point average of at least 3.5 or be in top 10% of class
- No transcribed grades below a C
- Must satisfy all immunization requirements set by the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR). Nonpublic school and homeschool students must provide proof of immunizations.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Achieve a composite score at or above the 90th percentile on the PSAT, SAT, or another standardized test OR
- A score of three (3) or higher on an AP exam

General Information:

- The state deadline for applications from the county superintendent is **Friday, April 3, 2026**. The school and county will have established deadlines to provide time for review of applications before making selections and sending their recommendations to the WVDE. Please check with the school counselor or principal to determine the deadline to submit Part II.
- Part II of the application (this form and all supporting documents as required within the application) are submitted directly to the school counselor.
- Copies of transcripts and standardized testing reports are required with the application. These documents will need to be provided by the school counselor.
- Within the application, you will be required to secure one teacher recommendation. Please provide sufficient notice to your teacher prior to submitting the application.

If you have questions, please contact Dustin Lambert, WVDE State Coordinator of West Virginia Governor's Schools – dlambert@k12.wv.us or (304) 558-5325.

Student Demographic Information

First Name: _____ Middle Name: _____

Last Name: _____ Preferred First Name: _____

Birthdate: _____ County: _____

School: _____

Student's Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Student's Preferred Phone Number: _____ T-Shirt Size: _____

☐ Male ☐ Female

Are there lodging accommodations the college/university should consider? Please explain.

If there are additional dorm considerations, parents/guardians may contact Dustin Lambert, Governor's Schools Coordinator for further discussion at (304) 558-5325 or dllambert@k12.wv.us

Student's K12 Email Address: _____

Student's Preferred/Secondary Email: _____

Parent/Guardian First and Last Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Preferred Phone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian Email Address: _____

Parent/Guardian 2 First and Last Name: _____

Parent/Guardian 2 Preferred Phone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian 2 Email Address: _____

Academic Information

Will the student be a CTE Completer (graduate with CTE certification) ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what area of study? _____

Student Cumulative GPA: _____

Number of AP® or IB courses taken or currently taking: _____

Number of AP® scores of three or above: _____



Parent and Student Verification Form

Student's First and Last Name: _____

This form is to be printed and completed by both the student and a parent/guardian using blue or black ink. Please attach this document to the application when submitting to the school counselor.

The following assurances must be initialed by both a parent/guardian and the student to participate in the Governor's Honor's Academy (GHA) if selected by the state selection committee. Your initials confirm you agree with each statement.

West Virginia Governor's Honors Academy (GHA)		
Student Initials	Parent/Guardian Initials	Please carefully read each statement before initialing.
		If selected, we agree to provide all requested medical (including prescriptions) and educational information to the GHA Dean at West Virginia University.
		The GHA program requires concerted academic focus, preparation, and motivation from all students. Participants are expected to demonstrate professionalism, self-discipline, and respect for self, others, the program, and the host institution.
		I consent to my son's/daughter's likeness, name, school, and hometown to appear in public media including newspapers, TV, radio, and the internet. Addresses and phone numbers may be printed in the student directory and shared with fellow GHA scholars during the sessions.
		I certify that I am a resident of the state of West Virginia and that I attend a public, nonpublic, or homeschool within the state.
		I give permission to the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) to release my child's name, likeness, and contact information to institutions recognizing and/or supporting the GHA program.
		If selected for GHA, I agree to fully participate in GHA from July 11-July 25, 2026 .
		We agree to abide by the regulations of the West Virginia Governor's Honors Academy and West Virginia University. Your initials also indicate an understanding that students who do not follow the rules will be sent home.
		Student records and applications are retained by the West Virginia Department of Education within a secure database. The applications of the selected students and/or the data in an electronic format will be transferred to personnel at the Governor's Honors Academy. Every precaution is taken to safeguard student records. I understand the selection committee will keep all information confidential and securely maintained.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date



Principal Certification

This form is to be printed and completed using blue or black ink by the school counselor. The principal or assistant principal must sign at the bottom to certify the information below. Please attach this form to the application before submitting to the school counselor for consideration.

Student's First and Last Name: _____

PSAT Score: _____ SAT Score: _____

Note: There is no actual test score requirement. The selection committee may consider these scores when comparing students within the same school or county.

Please list the IB and AP® scores of three or higher for the student.

IB Exams:

AP® Exams:

Number of dual credit courses completed with a B or higher:

Student Cumulative GPA: _____ Class Rank (if applicable): _____

Please confirm the information below is accurate within the application, or attached, by applying a checkmark.

- _____ No **final** grades below a C during the 9th, 10th, or 11th grade year.
- _____ One teacher recommendation letter is attached.
- _____ Photocopies of the results from PSAT, SAT, AP® Exams are attached.
- _____ Photocopy of transcript of grades for grades 9 and 10 and the grade card for the **first semester** of the grade 11.
- _____ Photocopy of immunization records if the student is from a nonpublic school or homeschooled.

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I hereby certify that the above-named student and information is accurate. I further indicate with my signature a recommendation for the student to be considered for participation in the GHA.

Principal or Assistant Principal Signature and Title

Date



Student Activities, Leadership, and Honors

Student's First and Last Name: _____

In the space provided, please highlight school activities, leadership, and honors throughout high school.

Activity/Club/Organization, Honor, Recognition	Leadership Position (if applicable)	Year(s)

If you need more space, please attach a second form.



Research & Study Experiences

Student's First and Last Name: _____

Please list three of the most significant research/study experiences you've had during high school.

Research/Study Description	Teacher or Organization	Year

If you need more space, please attach a second form.



Special Interests and Community Service

Student's First and Last Name: _____

Please discuss your special interests and hobbies.

Please list your community service involvement during high school.



Postsecondary Education Plans

Student's First and Last Name: _____

Please discuss your postsecondary education plans.



Student Essay Instructions

2026 GHA Theme: *West Virginia - Wild & Wonderful in a Remote World*

During the 2026 West Virginia Governor's Honor's Academy (GHA) at West Virginia University, you will participate in academic and extracurricular activities that explore this year's theme: *West Virginia - Wild & Wonderful in a Remote World*. Through this topic, you will investigate and imagine this year's GHA theme, asking you to hone in on how the Digital Age is bringing Appalachia to the world and the world to Appalachia. How do you as a young scholar and citizen of this wonderful state, want to capitalize on the ways technology has made the world more accessible, and how will you honor our Appalachian culture from speech to foraging for ramps when the previous isolation that protected that culture has been unstoppably pierced? What kind of approach can your generation bring to our state?

As a member of Generation Z, you will have the opportunity to lead, chart, and help shape the world we now live in. During your GHA experience you will have a chance to explore and research such state-wide and global issues concerning technology innovations, climate change challenges, growing political strife and social divide, socioeconomic uncertainties, and intensifying social justice movements to name a few. The 2025 GHA theme will enable you to better understand how we got to where we are so you may better contend with the world you will inherit, and create a new world that you would like to live in.

Programming will enable you to explore the above-mentioned themes as they pertain to critical historical and contemporary realities in your community, our state, nationally, and at the global level. Your GHA experience will allow you to define what aspects of our shared past you wish to keep and revitalize in the future and which elements are best left behind.

Write a short essay (300-350 words) convincing the reader of the importance of being a responsible citizen in our world and how technology should continue to shape our state. You may include several examples of what you see as issues facing our state, domestic and global communities. Your essay must be completely formatted in a Word document using 12 Times New Roman and double spaced.

The following criteria will be used to evaluate your writing:

- Organization and content
- Strong topic sentence supporting the thesis.
- Points are well organized and well developed.
- Includes sufficient details to defend positions.
- The use of thoughtful vocabulary
- The use of a variety of sentence types

Please attach the completed essay to your application in PDF format.



Application Specifications

Applications must include the following:

- Application Part II
- Parent and Student Verification Form
- Principal Certification
- Student Activities, Leadership, and Honors
- Research & Study Experiences
- Special Interests and Community Service
- Postsecondary Education Plans
- Student Essay – formatted in Word and printed to include in the PDF submission
- **ONE** Teacher Recommendation Letter
- AP®/IB Scores (provided by counselor)
- Transcript Record for grades 9 and 10 AND first semester grades of grade 11 (provided by counselor)
- Immunization records for nonpublic school and homeschool students.

The school counselor will scan all documents into one file for each student application.

A selection committee at the school will determine students who are recommended from each school. Students who are selected will be recommended to the county superintendent for final selections.

The West Virginia Department of Education is not accepting paper submissions of applications. Once the counselor has scanned all required documents into one file for each student, those files will be submitted electronically from the school to the county and then uploaded to the state file submission from the county superintendent's recommendations. The county contact uploads the county selections to the file submission.



Division of Instruction & Career Engagement