



Application for the
2025 Tennessee Governor's School
for
Tennessee Governor's School for
the Agricultural Sciences
At
University of Tennessee at
Martin

General Information

The Tennessee Governor's Schools offer Tennessee high school students intensive learning experiences virtually or on postsecondary campuses. Each school system is encouraged to share the Governor's School information and applications with strong students who meet the criteria listed below.

Nominations for the Tennessee Governor's Schools must be made by high school educators who can speak to the student's potential for success in the program. Each Governor's School convenes an application review committee to select the students invited to attend each school.

Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences University of Tennessee at Martin June 1, 2025 - June 27, 2025

Description of the specific Governor's School

The goals of this school are to provide educational programs in the agricultural sciences for gifted and talented high school youth. Programs are designed to challenge participants to use their talent and intellect in studying and researching the scientific nature of the various disciplines of agriculture and the natural resources while promoting an atmosphere of multicultural diversity, dialogue, learning, and respect. The objectives of the curriculum include:

1. To provide an academically talented group of students in Tennessee with opportunities to expand their knowledge of food, agriculture, and the sustainable use of renewable natural resources as well as their understanding of the technologies involved in manners not normally found in the traditional high school environment.
2. To provide participants with an opportunity to become exposed to scientific concepts, agribusiness concepts, land stewardship concepts, and facilities, as well as professional scientists from multiple universities and states.
3. To realize that the agricultural sciences provide a wide array of interesting and rewarding career opportunities that require training in leadership, communication, problem solving, interpersonal skills, and research methodology and application.

Formal courses, supervised individual and group projects, and experimental and experiential learning techniques will be part of the program. Faculty will include university instructors, researchers, outstanding high school teachers, and prominent industry and agency personnel offering selected courses, seminars, and specialized projects. Students may earn three to six hours of college credit. Field trips to leading academic and industry research and production facilities will be included.

Prerequisites Students applying for the Tennessee Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences must possess a demonstrated interest in agriculture and understand its importance to the culture and economy of Tennessee. Rising juniors AND seniors may apply (currently sophomores and juniors in high school). ACT and other standardized test scores are recommended in order to provide evidence of the student's likeliness to succeed at the university level. The students invited to attend will receive instructions on completing the UT Martin application process after accepting invitations. University admission requirements include an official high school transcript (with a school seal and school official signature, received by TGSAS in a sealed envelope), parental and high school permission to attend and a minimal weighted 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale.

Students will have the following experiences:

- Agriculture related field trips (farm and agribusiness tours)
 - Experiential learning through scientific experimentation and analysis.
- Develop communications skills through professional presentation.

Prerequisites:

Application deadline: December 6, 2024

For this application to be processed correctly please answer the following question to indicate your level of attendance interest.

Place an "x" in the right-hand column to indicate your potential attendance status.

1. Only if it was a resident program on a host campus	
2. I would attend either a resident or virtual program	

Submitting the Application:

Nominating educators should mail or electronically submit completed applications following directions provided by the respective Governor's School(s). Applications submitted directly by students will **not** be accepted. The student may keep a copy of the application, excluding the confidential *Teacher Reference* forms and the confidential *Counselor/Administrator Verification* form; the nominating educator should keep one complete copy of the submitted application package.

Application Submission Instructions

Ensure applications are complete, arranged in the correct order, and contain all required signatures and documents as outlined below.

1. **Submit completed TGSAS applications via email to tgsas@utm.edu.**
2. Nominating educators must submit applications electronically or with a postmark no later than the deadline(s) listed on page two of each application.
3. Each Governor's School has specific essay and writing sample questions. All questions must be answered and submitted online or with the application packet.
4. Class rank, class size, numerical test scores, etc., must be verified by the school counselor or school administrator, if available. Please note that while SAT and ACT scores are not mandatory, but school administrators are strongly encouraged to include this information if available.
5. Students are to list two teachers (see school-specific list) to complete the confidential *Teacher's Reference* forms. If the teacher is not the faculty member nominating the student, he/she should return the completed reference forms directly to the nominating educator. There is a space available at the bottom of the teacher reference form to put the name of the school personnel to whom the form is to be returned.
6. An official transcript must be included in the application packet or uploaded online.
7. A personal photo is not required but is an optional submission document.

Governor's Schools of Tennessee – Application Checklist	
Is this application complete?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant Information Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed by applicant/parent/guardian
<input type="checkbox"/> Certification of Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Signed by applicant, RANKING must be included
	<input type="checkbox"/> Signed by parent/guardian
	<input type="checkbox"/> Signed by counselor/administrator
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Achievement Information	<input type="checkbox"/> MUST BE COMPLETED and signed by counselor/principal
<input type="checkbox"/> Confidential Teacher Recommendation 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed and signed by teacher 1
<input type="checkbox"/> Confidential Teacher Recommendation 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed and signed by teacher 2
<input type="checkbox"/> Official Transcript	
<input type="checkbox"/> Specific Questions referred to on page 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Student responds to each question

Governor's Schools of Tennessee - Applicant Information Form

Student Information

Student Information			
Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	
	, TN		
Mailing Address	City	Zip Code	County
Home Phone	Cell Phone	Email Address	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Native American <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino	<input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Date of Birth Month/Day/Year	Gender	Race (select all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> US Citizen <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent Resident Alien		<input type="checkbox"/> Foreign Exchange Student	
Residence Status	Other Residence Status		

Parent/Guardian Information

Parent/Guardian Information			
Parent/Guardian Name		Relationship to Applicant	
	, TN		
Mailing Address	City	Zip Code	
Work Phone	Cell Phone	Email Address	

School Information

School Information			
School Name		District Name	
Counselor Name	Phone	Email	
		, TN	
Mailing Address	City	Zip Code	

Application Questions

Instructions

Questions 1 and 2 must be submitted in the form of video responses. Please post your **two-minute** response as a public YouTube video, and email both URLs to Dr. Philip Smartt at tgsas@utm.edu Question 3 and 4, should be submitted as a Microsoft Word or PDF file.

1. Explain why you wish to participate in the Governor's School for Agricultural Sciences and how your background or experience qualifies you for the school. (Two-minute video. Title video: "Student Name – WhyAttend")
2. Describe the importance of agriculture in the United States and the world. (Two-minute video. Title video: "Student Name – AgImportance")
3. Provide a resume of not more than three pages of your achievements, work experience, community service, leadership, and citizenship activities.
4. Please list any activities (i.e. camps, retreats, trips, etc.) that required you to be away from your home and family for more than three days

Please note: The screening committee will only review applications that meet these requirements. Students who are accepted typically present superior standardized test scores, outstanding academic records, strong reference letters, clear writing talent, and an extensive record of school and community service.

Governor's Schools of Tennessee – Certification of Application

Preference Indication

Any student applying to multiple Governor's Schools **must** rank the schools in order of preference on this form only (1=most preferred, etc.). It is not necessary to rank schools to which the student will not apply.

Ranking	Governor's School
	Agricultural Sciences
	Arts
	Computational Physics
	Emerging Technologies
	Humanities
	Technological Innovation & Business Leadership
	Integration of Biological & Statistical Sciences
	International Studies
	Prospective Teachers
	Sciences and Engineering
	Tennessee History & Environmental Studies, previously Scientific Exploration of Tennessee Heritage

Student Assurances

I have not previously attended a Tennessee Governor's School, and I affirm, agree, and/or understand that all statements on this form are true and accurate; any misrepresentation or omission of material facts may result in disqualification or termination should I already be enrolled in a Tennessee Governor's School.

By making this application, I and my parent/guardian agree to the release of any necessary school records to the Governor's School and the respective university for the purpose of determining eligibility. I/we understand and agree that such school records will be kept confidential and used only for determining admissibility to the Governor's School. Students who do not agree to the release of such school records for determining admissibility will not be considered for the Governor's Schools.

I certify to the best of my knowledge all of the information provided in this application is correct. I acknowledge that information about me may be used for publicity purposes if I am selected to attend a Governor's School.

Applicant's Printed Name

Applicant's Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Assurances

I have carefully reviewed the information on this application and give my permission for my son/daughter to proceed with application procedures. I acknowledge that the Governor's Schools may offer university course credit and grades which will require university enrollment. I authorize the high school and its employees to release any information necessary for this application.

Parent/Guardian's Printed Name

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date

School Assurances

I nominate the applicant listed above for the Tennessee Governor's School and certify that the applicant meets the criteria and the prerequisites of the Governor's School to which the application is made. I recommend this student for admission to the Governor's School(s), for admission to the hosting university during summer session 2024, and for enrollment in university courses which may or may not allow the student to earn postsecondary credit and grades.

Nominating Educator Printed Name	
Nominating Educator Signature	Date

Governor's Schools of Tennessee – Student Achievement Information

To the counselor/school administrator: The student listed below is applying for selection to a Tennessee

Governor's School. A complete application requires the following information and verification from you. While information pertaining to some of the following items may not be available for all students, please include all available information. Use the latest scores available. If your school does not rank, enter "do not rank" or "none." Any student applying to multiple Governor's Schools MUST rank the schools in order of preferences on this form only. You will only need to rank the school(s) you are applying to attend. Rank your most preferred school as 1 and follow that order to enter a number for the total number of school you are applying to. If you are only applying for one school, you MUST enter 1 beside that school.

Student Information					
Last Name		First Name		Middle Name	
<input type="checkbox"/> 10 th <input type="checkbox"/> 11 th					
Current Grade	Class Size	Class Rank/ Class Percentile	"HOPE Scholarship GPA"	Cumulative GPA	
<input type="checkbox"/> CTE (specify career cluster)	<input type="checkbox"/> Science and Math	<input type="checkbox"/> Humanities	<input type="checkbox"/> Fine Arts	<input type="checkbox"/> AP/IB	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)
Elective Focus					
If the above-referenced student does not meet the prerequisites set forth in the application packet, is not academically qualified, and/or you would not recommend this student for a Governor's School, then the student is ineligible and an application should not be submitted.					

Achievement Tests			
Test (list others as appropriate)	Grade Administered	Score	Percentile Ranking(s)
Current State Achievement Test			
Aptitude Tests			
Test	Grade Administered	Score	Percentile Ranking(s)
ACT Composite			
ACT English Composite			
ACT Math Composite			
ACT Reading Composite			
ACT Science Composite			
SAT Verbal			
SAT Math			
SAT Writing			
SAT II - specify test(s)			
Any Additional Relevant Test Scores			
Name of Test	Grade Administered	Total Score / Subscores	Percentile Ranking(s)

Attendance and Discipline		
	2023-24	2024-25 (to date)
Number of days absent		

Number of disciplinary referrals (please explain or attach disciplinary record on separate sheet)		
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Counselor/Administrator Verification

1. Please provide narrative comments about this student to help with our evaluation. Narrative comments are extremely helpful to the selection committees during the evaluation process. Use a separate sheet if necessary.

2. Have you reviewed the student's academic records?

- Yes
- No

3. Does the student meet the prerequisites of the Governor's School(s) to which this application is made?

- Yes
- No

4. In your opinion, how academically qualified is the student for the Governor's School experience?

- Highly Qualified
- Qualified
- Marginally Qualified
- Not Qualified

I certify to the best of my knowledge the above results are accurately reported.

Counselor/administrator's Printed Name

Counselor/administrator's Signature

Date

Governor's Schools of Tennessee – Teacher Recommendation Guide

The two confidential *Teacher Recommendation* forms should be completed as follows:

Governor's School	Teacher Recommendation 1	Teacher Recommendation 2
Agricultural Sciences	Applicant's choosing	Applicant's choosing
Arts	Arts area teacher	Applicant's choosing
Computational Physics	Science teacher	Math teacher
Emerging Technologies	Science teacher	Math teacher
Engineering	Science teacher	Math teacher
Humanities	English teacher	Applicant's choosing, preferably in humanities discipline
Technological Innovation & Business Leadership	Technology or business teacher	Applicant's choosing
Integration of Biological & Statistical Sciences	Science teacher	Math teacher
International Studies	Foreign language teacher, if available	Social studies teacher, if available
Prospective Teachers	English teacher	Applicant's choosing
Sciences & Engineering	Science teacher	Math teacher
Scientific Exploration of Tennessee Heritage	Social studies or science teacher	Humanities or arts teacher

Please list the two teachers from whom the applicant is requesting confidential teacher Recommendations from.

	Name	Subject
Teacher 1		
Teacher 2		

Governor's Schools of Tennessee – Confidential Teacher Recommendation

Student Information

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
Educator nominating applicant:		Deadline to return teacher recommendation

To the teacher: The above-referenced student is applying to attend one of the Tennessee Governor's Schools, an intensive residency or virtual program for mature, gifted, and talented students. This applicant has designated you as one of his or her teachers of reference. This recommendation form is a critically important part of the student's application and will have a significant role in the selection process. Please provide us with a candid, frank, and complete assessment of this student's maturity, attitude, work commitment, and creativity. This form will not become a part of the student's regular school records; it will be used solely by officials of the Governor's School to aid them in the selection process. The contents of this form will not be disclosed to the applicant or his/her parents/guardians. The Governor's School officials greatly appreciate your help in this selection process.

Please return this completed form to the applicant's nominator by the date listed above.

1. How long have you known and worked with this applicant?

2. In what situations have you served as this applicant's teacher?

3. Please evaluate this applicant in the areas below, comparing him or her with similar outstanding students you have had in the past:

<p><i>Ability to learn</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Learns very quickly <input type="checkbox"/> Learns readily <input type="checkbox"/> Average <input type="checkbox"/> Must work hard to learn <input type="checkbox"/> Does not learn easily	<p><i>Attitude toward work</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding <input type="checkbox"/> Above Average <input type="checkbox"/> Average <input type="checkbox"/> Can be indifferent <input type="checkbox"/> Lacks commitment	<p><i>Dependability/consistency</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Always dependable <input type="checkbox"/> Above average <input type="checkbox"/> Average <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally unreliable <input type="checkbox"/> Usually unreliable
<p><i>Initiative</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Self-directed/motivated <input type="checkbox"/> Usually independent <input type="checkbox"/> Completes work assigned <input type="checkbox"/> Needs some prodding <input type="checkbox"/> Very hesitant	<p><i>Judgment</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptionally good <input type="checkbox"/> Above average <input type="checkbox"/> Average for a teenager <input type="checkbox"/> Occasional poor judgments <input type="checkbox"/> Frequent poor judgments	<p><i>Maturity</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Extremely mature <input type="checkbox"/> Above average <input type="checkbox"/> Average teenager <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat mature <input type="checkbox"/> Very immature
<p><i>Relations with others</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptionally good <input type="checkbox"/> Above average <input type="checkbox"/> Average <input type="checkbox"/> Occasional conflicts <input type="checkbox"/> Many conflicts	<p><i>Quality of work</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Average <input type="checkbox"/> Below average <input type="checkbox"/> Very poor	<p><i>Quantity of work</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Unusually high output <input type="checkbox"/> Above average <input type="checkbox"/> Average output <input type="checkbox"/> Not a great producer <input type="checkbox"/> Low output, slow

4. How would you describe the applicant's punctuality?

High Average Low

Continued on next page

**Governor's Schools of Tennessee – Confidential Teacher Recommendation
(cont'd)**

5. What is your best judgment about this applicant's emotional maturity and stability to deal with an intensive residency program in which he/she will meet new people, face new situations, and encounter new challenges during the weeks of the program? Could this student adapt to a virtual program?

- This applicant will adapt readily to the changes and challenges and will be a successful participant.
- This applicant should be able to adapt to the changes and challenges with minimal adjustment.
- This applicant should succeed but will have some difficulty dealing with the stress.
- This applicant may have some difficulty dealing with the stress and may not be successful.
- This applicant will have great difficulty dealing with new situations and challenges.

6. This applicant's outstanding personal qualities are:

7. The personal qualities this applicant should strive most to improve are:

8. Please indicate your overall judgment about this applicant:

- Very highly recommended, an outstanding student who will do well in the school.
- Highly recommended, a very good student who will be successful in the school.
- Recommended, a good student who will participate effectively in the school.
- Recommended with reservations, a good student but he/she may present some problems.
- I do not recommend this student.

9. Summary Comments: We must select a relatively small number of students from a large pool of exceptional applicants. Please tell us something about this student that is not reflected in any of the above ratings, which will help us make an informed decision. What makes this applicant truly exceptional? Summary comments are extremely important to the selection committees, and reference letters are acceptable. If you need more space, you may attach another sheet.

Name

Signature

Date

Governor's Schools of Tennessee – Confidential Teacher Recommendation

Student Information

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
Educator nominating applicant:		Deadline to return teacher recommendation

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- This applicant should be able to adapt to the changes and challenges with minimal adjustment.
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- This applicant may have some difficulty dealing with the stress and may not be successful.
- This applicant will have great difficulty dealing with new situations and challenges.

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Name

Signature