

Williamson County Schools

Independence High School Counseling Center

IMPORTANT COLLEGE ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENT UPDATE

9/9/2009

Currently the University of Tennessee system still **does not require** the **ACT Writing** section to be taken as a part of the admissions process. The ACT Writing is also **not required by the state of Tennessee** for high school graduation, nor is it offered as a part of the state wide testing program for grade 11 each spring.

However, many colleges and universities are in the process of updating and revising their admissions requirements for first time freshmen.

Among those colleges now requiring the ACT Writing section are the University of Alabama and the University of Florida. Below you can see what the UA and UF websites say about the ACT Writing requirement. All IHS students, particularly seniors planning to attend these or other schools using the ACT Writing section for admission, should plan on taking the ACT Writing if you have not already. If you do not know if the colleges you are considering require the ACT Writing section, go to the admissions page on the school's website, or contact the admissions office and ask.

University of Alabama

Beginning with freshman applicants for **Summer/Fall 2010**, The University of Alabama will require the writing section of either the ACT or SAT test. As we continue to use a holistic approach to review each applicant, the writing component will offer further insight into a student's readiness for college level work. As we continue to use a holistic approach to review each applicant, the writing component will offer further insight into a student's readiness for college level work.

The highest composite test score will be used for admissions and scholarship purposes to UA. For example:

- ACT test taken without the writing section: composite score of four main areas: 28
- ACT test with the writing section: composite score of four main areas: 25

* UA will honor the composite score of 28.

University of Florida

- On the **ACT With Writing**, a composite score of 19 is required with a minimum of 17 on the English subsection, a minimum of 19 on the math subsection and a minimum of 18 on the reading subsection. ACT scores without the Writing component cannot be used for freshman admission decisions.
- **All applicants must submit the SAT or the ACT With Writing test. While UF cannot mix scores from old and new tests, the university will accept the highest subscores from the new SAT if you took the new test multiple times. The university cannot mix or combine any ACT subscores.**

See the back page of this announcement for more **September Scholarship Opportunities**

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*Additional September Scholarship Opportunities:

Haslam Scholars Program at UT Knoxville: This scholarship was awarded to 15 scholars for the current year and is valued at \$15,000 per year. To be considered for the Haslam Scholars Program, each interested applicant must do the following:

Schedule a personal interview with me prior to November 1 - scheduling arrangements may be made by phone (865-974-7875) or e-mail (honors@utk.edu)

1. Submit the application for undergraduate admission by November 1 - www.apply.utk.edu
2. Submit the 2010 Fall Entering Freshman Academic Scholarship Application by November 1 - <http://finaid.utk.edu/apply/undergraduate.shtml>.

Thirty applicants will be selected in late January to be invited for Haslam Scholars Interviews in late February. More information is available on the Haslam Scholars web site - <http://honors.utk.edu/haslam.html>.

Sincerely,

Steven P. Dandaneau, Ph.D.
Associate Provost and Director
Chancellor's Honors and Haslam Scholars Program

JFK Profiles in Courage Essay Contest: Open to students in grades 9-12. 1000 word essay required. Contest rules and details are available at www.jfklibrary.org. First-place winner receives \$10,000, Second-place winner receives \$1,000 and up to five finalists receive \$500 each. Deadline to apply is January 9, 2009.

Prudential Spirit of Community Awards: One IHS student in grades 9-12 may be nominated to compete for a \$1000 state level scholarship. See www.prudential.com/spirit for application and entry details. Deadline to apply is November 2, 2009

Applications and application information for these scholarships are available in the IHS Counseling Center. Please check with Ms. McCombs, or see the HIS Scholarship Book located in the lobby. For more specific information, and assistance in the application process, see your grade level counselor of assistance.

