

Admissions

Winthrop University admits all qualified applicants and offers equal educational opportunities regardless of race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion, or disability.

Admission to Winthrop is competitive. Enrollment is maintained at a level that permits personal interaction between students and professors and allows Winthrop to offer an exemplary undergraduate education. Winthrop carefully reviews each applicant on an individual basis and the admission process is designed to determine the right match between high-achieving students and the distinctive educational opportunities offered at Winthrop University.

All applicant files (excluding international applications) are reviewed by the Office of Admissions and this office is solely responsible for rendering the admissions decision. Requests for information may be directed to the Office of Admissions, Winthrop University, Joynes Hall, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29733; telephone: 1-800-WINTHROP (800-946-8476) or 803-323-2191; Web: www.winthrop.edu/admissions.

Freshman Applicants

Freshman applicants are evaluated using the following criteria:

Primary criteria - will always be considered

- high school performance (with emphasis on grades earned on the required high school prerequisites)
- level of course work
- completion of high school course prerequisites
- standardized test scores, SAT or ACT (The results of the writing component from either examination is requested but will not be used to make the admissions decision.)

Secondary criteria - will be considered if submitted

- letter(s) of recommendation
- factors (extenuating circumstances) affecting performance in classes
- essay or personal statement
- extracurricular activities
- personal interview

The admissions review process includes the evaluation of each individual student's application and academic credentials. **The most important factor is achievement in high school courses, including the type of courses a student has completed and the grades earned, followed by performance on the SAT or ACT.** Students must also complete the 20 course prerequisites required by the State of South Carolina (see list below). Recommendations and extracurricular activities are also considered.

Students who have been out of high school for five or more years are not required to take the SAT or ACT, or submit a guidance counselor recommendation. Applicants must meet the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education's high school course prerequisites if they graduated from high school after 1987.

All students who enroll in a baccalaureate degree program must possess a high school diploma or G.E.D. certificate. With the exception of students who are home schooled, Winthrop does not accept experience in lieu of a high school diploma or G.E.D. certificate.

Required High School Courses for Freshmen Applicants

English: 4 units. At least two having strong grammar and composition components, at least one in English literature, and at least one in American literature. (Completion of college preparatory English I, II, III, & IV meets these requirements.)

Mathematics: 3 units. Includes algebra I (for which applied mathematics I and II may count together as a substitute, if a student successfully completes algebra II), algebra II, and geometry. A fourth higher-level mathematics course is strongly recommended. The fourth course should be selected from among algebra III/trigonometry, precalculus, calculus, statistics, or discrete mathematics.

Laboratory Science: 3 units. Two units must be taken in two different fields and selected from among biology, chemistry, or physics. The third unit may be taken from the same field as one of the first two units (biology, chemistry, or physics) or from any laboratory science for which biology and/or chemistry is a prerequisite. Courses in earth science, general physical science, or introductory or general environmental science for which biology and/or chemistry is not a prerequisite will not meet this requirement. It is strongly recommended that students take physical science (taught as a laboratory science) as a **prerequisite** to the three required units of laboratory science as outlined in this section.

Social Science: 3 units. One unit of U.S. History is required; a half unit of economics and a half unit of government is strongly recommended

Foreign Language: 2 units. Two units of the same foreign language.

Physical Education or ROTC: 1 unit.

Electives: 4 units. Four college preparatory units must be taken from at least three different fields selected from among computer science, English, fine arts, foreign languages, humanities, laboratory science (excluding earth science, general physical science, general environmental science or other introductory science courses for which biology and/or chemistry is not a prerequisite), mathematics above the level of algebra II, and social sciences. It is suggested that one

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unit be in computer science which includes programming (i.e., not just keyboarding) and one unit in fine arts (appreciation of, history, or performance).

Home Schooled Applicants

Home schooled applicants should submit the following credentials: transcript (or other record of completed work) which shows the name of the completed courses, credit earned and grades earned; and an official copy of SAT or ACT scores.

Students who are home schooled must complete the 20 high school courses prerequisites required by South Carolina (see section above). Applicants will be evaluated on an individual basis using the following credentials: course selection, earned grades and SAT or ACT score. Letters of recommendation, an essay or personal statement, and/or a personal interview will also be considered if submitted.

Provisional Admission for Freshman Applicants

The University provides a provisional admission program to a limited number of freshman applicants. **(The program is only offered to students who enroll in the fall semester.)** The **Learning Excellent Academic Practices (LEAP) Program** will provide additional academic support throughout the first year at Winthrop. All LEAP program participants are assessed a **\$400 fee** in addition to tuition and fee charges. This fee will appear on the fall semester bill.

Transfer Applicants

Applicants who have taken college-level course work in a degree-seeking status in the fall or spring semester after high school graduation are classified as transfer students when making application for admission to Winthrop University, regardless of whether the course(s) will transfer for credit.

1. All transfer applicants must be eligible to return to the last post-secondary school attended.
2. Transfer applicants must have **official copies of all** college course work (part- or full-time, attempted or completed) **from every institution attended** (whether credit was earned or attempted) sent directly from the registrar of each regionally accredited institution to the Office of Admissions. Course work posted on transcripts from institutions other than the original college where work was actually completed is not acceptable. **A separate official transcript from each institution is required in order to make an application complete.**
3. Transfer applicants who have earned fewer than 30 semester hours must submit a high school transcript along with standardized test scores. (Standardized test scores are not required for applicants who have been out of high school five years or more.)
4. Transfer applicants who have attempted 13 semester (19.5 quarter) hours or more (excluding developmental courses) at a regionally accredited institution must present a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.
5. Transfer applicants who have attempted 12 semester (18 quarter) hours of course work from a regionally accredited institution must present a minimum grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. (Developmental courses cannot be included in the 12 hours.) Applicants who have *attempted* fewer than 12 hours of college course work will be evaluated on their college performance and high school record, including grades, class rank, and test scores (SAT or ACT). Standardized test scores are not required for applicants who have been out of high school for five years or longer. **Emphasis will be placed on performance in college.**

Provisional Admission for Transfer Applicants

Winthrop will consider on an individual basis transfer applicants whose cumulative GPA is below the required 2.0 (typically 1.9 on a 4.0 scale). Applicants can be considered for provisional admission if one of the following conditions applies:

1. Early course work adversely affected the cumulative GPA; course work completed most recently is satisfactory.
2. The cumulative GPA was earned as a result of an event that affected an applicant's performance in one semester, and the pattern of achievement prior to or since that event supports the applicant's potential for success.

Transfers who are provisionally admitted must complete a **minimum of 24 semester hours during the first two regular semesters with a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on Winthrop courses.**

Undergraduate Transfer Credit Policy

Winthrop University, in general, accepts transfer course credit from other institutions of higher education under the following conditions:

1. The course work must have been taken at an institution that is accredited by the commission on colleges of a regional accreditation agency.
2. The subject matter and the level of the course must be appropriate to Winthrop's general education curriculum or the program into which the student is transferring.
3. The grade that is received for the course must be at least a C- or a grade with a minimum level equivalent to a C-.

In general, credit is not granted by transfer for vocational, remedial, or developmental courses unless the forwarding college granted credit and Winthrop offers essentially the same courses for credit.

Transferring students who have completed course work in general studies programs are permitted to transfer only 15 semester hours of selected courses from such programs into any curriculum at Winthrop. The selection of the courses and the applicability to the curriculum is determined by the academic division receiving the student.

The individual college at Winthrop makes the final determination of the applicability of the accepted credit to the student's degree program.

Only 65 semester hours from a two-year college may be applied toward a baccalaureate degree program at Winthrop.

A transfer student must earn at least 31 semester hours of course credits at Winthrop to complete requirements for an undergraduate degree. (See Residence Requirements.)

Transfer credit is not used in computing a student's grade-point average at Winthrop. However, it is used in computing eligibility for academic honors and the LIFE Scholarship.

The Admissions Office will evaluate military credit using the current edition of the *Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Forces*. The academic college will make the final determination of the applicability of the acceptable credit to the student's degree program.

Winthrop University will consider experiential credit using the recommendations of the American Council on Education's College Credit Recommendation Service (CREDIT).

International Applicants

Winthrop University is authorized to admit international students on either F-1 or J-1 student visas and encourages international students to apply. The application can be downloaded from www.winthrop.edu/internationalcenter and the completed and signed application must be submitted with the following documents. Additional information is provided on the application itself.

Official Copy of Transcript(s). You must submit official or certified copies of your transcripts (grade reports) for your secondary education and any university work that you have completed. If these transcripts are in a language other than English, you must also submit a certified English translation of the transcript.

English Proficiency. Verification of English proficiency is required for international students (if English is not the native language). Documentation of proficiency of the language can be provided by submitting one of the following credentials:

1. **TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)** score of 520 (paper-based test), 190 (computer-based test), or 68 (internet-based test).
2. The **ELS Language Center** English proficiency level of 109.
3. **Two semesters of English composition** taken at an American college/university and completed with a minimum grade of "C" in both courses.
4. Successful completion of an **English as a Second Language (ESL) Program**.
5. **SAT verbal score** of 450 or higher.
6. **International English Language Testing System (IELTS)** score of 6 with no subscore lower than 5.

Certification of Support. Before we can issue the necessary forms for your visa you must submit evidence of financial support, typically a bank statement, showing sufficient funds to meet all expenses for an academic year (total costs for an academic year can be found at www.winthrop.edu/internationalcenter/costs). The funds can be in dollars or in your local currency. If you are sponsored by someone other than your parents, also include a letter from your sponsor indicating that he or she intends to sponsor all your educational expenses. **These documents must be the original or a certified copy and cannot be dated more than six months prior to the application date.** Students with scholarships need to show sufficient funds to meet expenses not covered by the scholarship.

Application Fee. A non-refundable application fee of \$60.00 must be submitted with the application. This amount will cover the cost of sending admissions materials to you by DHL.

Health Form. This form must be completed and on file in Health Services along with complete immunization records prior to registering for classes.

International Application Deadlines

Winthrop University has rolling admissions (no fixed deadlines) for international undergraduate applicants. However, in order to obtain the necessary visa we recommend that we receive applications for the Fall semester by July 1 and for the Spring semester by November 15.

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New Start

New Start is a service program for students 25 years or older. New Start students range in age from mid 20s to 80s. They may be continuing undergraduate work begun some years ago, or they may be enrolling in college for the first time. The New Start program provides students with the information and assistance they need to explore the educational opportunities available at Winthrop and to succeed in meeting their educational goals.

Freshman Admission

Applicants for freshman admission must demonstrate the potential for academic success through previous academic performance and life experience. **Previous academic performance is a critical factor in determining admission.**

1. New Start applicants are not required to submit SAT or ACT test scores.
2. To be **considered** for freshman admission, the applicant must possess either a high school diploma or G.E.D. certificate. G.E.D. applicants must have passed the test with a total score greater than or equal to 2250 and no individual standard (subject) score less than 450.
3. Applicants should have an official copy of their high school transcript mailed directly to the Office of Admissions. G.E.D. applicants should request that an official copy of their test scores and high school transcript (showing courses completed prior to withdrawal) be mailed directly to the Office of Admissions.

Transfer Admission

Applicants for transfer admission will be evaluated based upon their cumulative grade point average (GPA) computed from grades earned at all previous colleges/universities. In general, transfer applicants who apply through the New Start Program must meet the same admissions requirements as traditional transfers. (Refer to section on Transfer Admission.) However, factors such as time elapsed since the last college enrollment, life experiences, will be considered along with the cumulative G.P.A.

Senior Citizen Admission

South Carolina Citizens 60 years of age and over may attend Winthrop on a "tuition free," space-available basis. A \$10 registration fee is required in addition to any lab fees and book purchases. **Applicants must be legal residents of South Carolina as specified in the South Carolina Code of Laws, section 22.2.** Additional information and specific guidelines and application forms are available in the Office of Admissions. They may be requested in person, by mail, by telephone (803-323-2106), or by email (newstart@winthrop.edu).

Non-Degree Applicants

All students taking undergraduate courses who are not working toward a degree are classified as non-degree/special students. These students must apply and submit the appropriate credentials. A student admitted as an undergraduate special student may not change status to that of a regular student without submitting an application and meeting regular admission requirements.

Students admitted to any of the following special student categories may enroll only in those courses for which they have received approval from the dean of the college offering the courses. The categories of undergraduate special student are:

Pre-College Credit Student

Qualified high school juniors and seniors may enroll at Winthrop University during the regular academic year or summer session. **To qualify, students must have earned a cumulative grade average of 3.0 and must be recommended by their high school counselor or principal.** Credit earned in this manner is not expected to count toward a high school diploma. However, it will count as full credit for those students who subsequently enroll as regular students at Winthrop. Students must submit an application, high school transcript, and test scores for consideration as a freshman applicant.

Undergraduate Non-Degree

This admission status is designed to meet the needs of the student who is not seeking a degree. Please note that several restrictions apply (see below) and the Office of Admissions reserves the right to determine the admissions status of a prospective applicant.

1. Courses completed under this status carry full University credit; however, none of the hours are applicable to a degree until the student qualifies for admission to a degree program. **The applicability of courses completed under this status will be determined by the appropriate academic department should a student subsequently enroll in a degree program.**
2. Course work completed as an undergraduate non-degree student will not be considered for admissions purposes should a student apply for admission to a degree program.
3. To be eligible to enroll, the student must have completed high school two or more years ago.
4. Applicants who have been officially denied admission as degree-seeking students are not eligible for admission as a non-degree student.*

5. Applicants who would not qualify for admission as a degree-seeking student are not eligible for admission as a non-degree student.*
6. Special students may enroll for a **total** of twelve semester hours **under this status**. Subsequent enrollment (after twelve hours) requires the submission of an application and credentials for a degree-seeking applicant.

**Note: Applicants who cannot be admitted under the Undergraduate Non-Degree status may not audit courses.*

Visiting/Transient Student

Students enrolled at other institutions who wish to take undergraduate courses for credit at Winthrop for transfer back to their home institutions may be enrolled as visiting/transient students. Admission is based on the written approval of the applicant's home college/university. The written approval must list courses to be taken at Winthrop and provide a statement of academic good standing. Visiting students must be readmitted each semester by the Office of Records and Registration.

Notification of Admission

Spring Admission

The decision is mailed within two weeks of receipt of final documents. The application and supporting documents must be received by December 15.

Fall/Summer Admission

Admissions decisions are mailed on a rolling basis. Priority processing is given to freshman applicants who apply by May 1 and transfer applicants who apply by June 1.

After the appropriate credentials for admission are received, admission officials carefully evaluate each student's application. An admissions decision is mailed to students based upon when the application becomes complete. Students may view their status online at www.winthrop.edu/mystatus.

Undergraduate students admitted to the University are required to reserve a place in the incoming class by **submitting a nonrefundable Admissions Enrollment Fee by the date stated in the letter of admission**. The enrollment fee is credited to the student's tuition and fees account. It is applicable only for the term for which the student is being admitted. **Admitted students who do not enroll for the deposited term forfeit the admissions enrollment fee.**

Detailed information and instructions concerning reserving campus housing, the immunization and physical examination requirement, orientation, room assignments, and registration are sent to accepted students at appropriate times during the year.

Health Requirements

Winthrop University requires all students born on or after January 1, 1957 to provide proof of two MMR immunizations or two measles (Rubeola) and one German measles (Rubella) immunization or blood titers showing immunity. All students must have a screening for Tuberculosis within one year prior to starting classes and a Tetanus immunization within the last ten years. All required immunizations are available at Health Services for a minimal fee. Medical and religious exemptions are allowed by law. All students wanting to receive medical care at Student Health Services must have a current (within one year prior to starting classes) physical examination on file. The entire medical form should be sent to: Winthrop University, Health Services, 217 Crawford Building, Rock Hill, SC 29733. Make a copy for your records.

Credit by Examination

Winthrop University grants credit to students who demonstrate mastery of a subject based on their performance on standardized examinations. Credit hours for courses exempted by examination are recorded on students' permanent record when they register as regular students at Winthrop. No grades are given for these hours and no more than 30 semester hours may be earned by examination. The acceptability for transfer to other colleges or universities of credit so earned cannot be guaranteed. Each college and university evaluates transfer credit in its own way.

Winthrop accepts and evaluates scores from four examination programs: Advanced Placement (AP), the International Baccalaureate Program (IB), the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) Examinations, and the SAT II Subject Tests.

Advanced Placement. Advanced placement scores must be sent directly to Winthrop from the College Board. Students successfully completing advanced placement courses and receiving a score of three or above on the exam shall receive credit for the appropriate Winthrop course. For a listing of acceptable AP Exams and required scores, contact the Office of Admissions or view the list online at www.winthrop.edu/admissions/freshman/ap.htm.

International Baccalaureate. Winthrop University will award advanced credit for scores of 5 or above in mathematics and computer science and 4 or above in all other **higher level examinations**. Additional information is available online at www.winthrop.edu/admissions/freshman/ib.htm.

SAT II Subject Tests. Winthrop will award advanced credit for selected SAT II subject tests. Please contact the Office of Admissions for information on course equivalencies.

CLEP Examinations. The College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) tests are administered monthly at Winthrop,

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except in December. Interested students are advised to take the tests at least two weeks before they plan to enroll so that the test results may be received and evaluated prior to registration. There are two types of CLEP examinations: the General Examination and the Subject Examination. Winthrop University grants credit only for the Subject Examinations, which are designed to exempt specific courses. Winthrop encourages students to take CLEP Subject Examinations for credit in subjects or areas which they have mastered through previous study, purposeful reading, travel, or other experiences. Students interested in foreign language exemptions are advised to take the CLEP Subject Examination in the desired language. Information on CLEP may be obtained from Counseling Services, 203 Crawford, Winthrop University (803-323-2233).

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Any Winthrop student who was not registered for courses the previous fall or spring semester or who withdrew from the University for any reason during the last semester of enrollment, **and fewer than five calendar years have elapsed**, is required to apply for readmission through the Office of Records and Registration. Winthrop students **who have been absent for five calendar years or longer** must be readmitted through the Office of Admissions. Former Winthrop students who are 25 years or older may initiate readmission through the New Start Office (803-323-2106).

Official transcripts from all institutions attended during a student's absence must be submitted when the student applies for readmission. Students applying for readmission who attended another institution in the interim must submit an official transcript from each regionally accredited college/university attended. Students who have enrolled in more than twelve (12) semester hours must earn a minimum cumulative grade point ratio of 2.0. Applicants for readmission must also satisfy any balance due on their Winthrop account before being allowed to enroll. It should be noted that:

1. Any special permissions, waivers, substitutions, or other dispensations previously granted by Winthrop are void
2. All credit hours previously earned at Winthrop, including credit by examination, are evaluated against current criteria.

After a 12 month absence, readmitted students must meet the graduation requirements and the minimum academic standards effective at the time of reentry.

At the time of readmission, a student who has been absent for five calendar years or longer may choose to reenter under the "**academic forgiveness**" policy. Under this policy, all courses previously taken at Winthrop University are treated as if they were transfer credit. The earlier courses are not used in computing the student's grade-point average. However, all earlier courses and the grades earned remain on the student's official transcript and are counted in computing eligibility for graduating with academic honors.

The student must exercise or waive the "academic forgiveness" option by the end of the first week of the second semester he or she is readmitted to Winthrop.