Admissions Policies: First Year Students

Applications for admission must be submitted electronically.

Applications for the fall semester are accepted beginning September 1 of the previous year. All complete applications received by February 1 will receive full consideration for admission. After February 1, applications will be considered on a space-available basis. Applications for spring semester are accepted beginning September 1 of the fall preceding that term.

To be considered for admission, individuals must submit the following items to the Admissions Office, UW-La Crosse, 2320 Student Union, 1725 State Street, La Crosse, WI 54601 USA:

1. Completed UW System application
2. Official high school transcript
3. Non-refundable application fee
4. Official ACT or SAT scores sent directly from ACT/SAT

First year admission requirements

Candidates for admission must satisfy requirements 1 and 2.

All applications receive a comprehensive review. Due to enrollment limitations and the competitive nature of admission to the university, admission consideration will be primarily based on rigor of courses, high school rank, grade point average, and ACT/SAT scores. While academic preparation is the primary criterion used in the admissions decision process, other non-academic secondary factors may contribute to the strength of an application. These may include qualities such as demonstrated leadership, extracurricular involvement, special talent, personal statement, recommendations, and/or adding a diverse dimension to our campus community.

The following is a general profile of our admitted first years for fall 2017. This is reported for the middle 50% range, so 25% of admitted first years fall above this range and 25% of admitted first years fall below this range.

- Class Rank: 69th to 90th percentile
- ACT Composite: 22 - 26

ACT/SAT examination

First year candidates for admission must take the ACT or the SAT. Scores must be sent to the Admissions Office directly from ACT or SAT. No admission decision will be made until official scores are received. High school students are recommended to take the exam in the spring of their junior year or early in their senior year.

Information concerning the test dates, locations, fees, and application information may be obtained from any high school guidance office or by visiting the university’s Counseling and Testing Center (http://www.uwlax.edu/counseling-testing). The ACT/SAT requirement may be waived for non-traditional students.

Mathematics and English placement

Placement into the appropriate level of English and mathematics courses is determined by using scores earned on the University of Wisconsin Placement Exams and the ACT/SAT. Students cannot take classes above their placement level. Course registration in either discipline is limited to those students who have demonstrated their competency through the examinations. Placement exam results expire two years from the date of the exam, after which the placement exam must be retaken.

ENG 100 College Writing Workshop (3 cr.) is a course taken in the same semester as ENG 110 College Writing (3 cr.) and is designed to supplement the skills taught in ENG 110 with additional strategies and activities. Students with low placement scores are required to take ENG 100 at the same time as ENG 110. Students who place into ENG 100 must complete the course prior to earning 30 degree credits.

MTH 050 Basic Algebra (3 cr.) and MTH 051 Topics in Intermediate Algebra (2 cr.) are math courses designed for students whose test scores indicate a low probability for success in college-level math courses. Any student may enroll in MTH 050 or MTH 051, but if the student needs MTH 050 or MTH 051, the students must complete the requirement(s) prior to earning 30 degree credits.

Credit by examination and retroactive credit

Students may earn university credit through a variety of options. For specific information, admitted students should contact the Admissions
Office and continuing students should contact the college or school in which they are enrolled.

The five options are:

1. **Advanced Placement Program**: Students who have participated in the College Board Advanced Placement program (AP) in high school and have received scores of 3, 4, or 5 will receive academic credit. Transcripts of your AP scores must be submitted directly from the College Board to the Admissions Office for evaluation to determine how academic credit will be awarded.

2. **College Level Examination Program**: The College Level Examination Program (CLEP) is a national program administered through the College Board. UW-La Crosse follows the American Council on Education (ACE) guidelines and recommendations for minimum scores for awarding credit in all subject examinations. Transcripts must be submitted directly from the College Board to the Admissions Office.

3. **Departmental Credit by Exam**: Each academic department will have an examination for credit for each course the department determines to be introductory, including courses applicable to the skills component of the General Education Program.

4. **Retroactive Credit**: Three departments (Computer Science [http://www.cs.uwlax.edu](http://www.cs.uwlax.edu), Global Cultures & Languages [https://www.uwlax.edu/global-cultures-and-languages], and Mathematics [https://www.uwlax.edu/mathematics/exam-information/ap-and-retroactive-credit]) offer retroactive credit for previous course work.

5. **International Baccalaureate**: Credit will be granted for "Higher Level" examinations with a score of 4 or greater. Transcripts must be submitted directly from IB to the Admissions Office.

See the Admissions Office for more information on specific types of credit by examination and retroactive credit [https://www.uwlax.edu/admissions/ap-ib-clep-credit](https://www.uwlax.edu/admissions/ap-ib-clep-credit). Some departments include more information on their department pages in regard to their own policy and procedures.

UWL has specific academic policies regarding how credit by examination and retroactive credit is earned and recorded on a student’s transcript. For the full university policy [http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/academicpolicies/gradesgradingtesting/#credit-examination-retroactive-credit-policy](http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/academicpolicies/gradesgradingtesting/#credit-examination-retroactive-credit-policy), see the academic policies section.