

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

University Laboratory High School
1212 West Springfield Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801



Dear University Laboratory High School Applicants and Families:

Thank you for considering the University of Illinois University Laboratory High School (Uni). This packet contains a description of the application process and a copy of the application form. We highly recommend attending one of our Informational Meetings scheduled for 7:00 p.m. at Uni. Informational Meetings are scheduled for:

- September 17
- October 8
- November 5
- January 7
- February 4

You are also encouraged to visit our website at <http://www.uni.illinois.edu/> to obtain more information.

It is very important that you meet our application timeline and requirements. Your completed application packet should include: (1) application form; (2) Two teacher recommendation forms; (3) application fee or Application Fee Waiver Form; and (4) official school records as requested and (5) SSAT test scores.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to confirm that the application is complete and received by Uni by the deadline. No late applications will be accepted! **The deadline for Subfreshman application is February 27, 2015.** Admission decisions will be mailed on April 24, 2015. **The deadline for high school (grades 9 – 11) applications is March 20, 2015.** Admission decisions will be mailed on May 1, 2015.

Your questions regarding Uni may be answered by reviewing the Uni website, calling the main office at 217-333-2870 or by attending one of the Informational Meetings. Thank you again for your interest in the University of Illinois University Laboratory High School. Please contact Dr. Jeanette Nuckolls by email (nuckolij@illinois.edu) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

The Uni Admissions Committee



Admissions

University Laboratory High School
1212 W. Springfield Ave
Urbana, IL 61801
(217) 333-2870

University Laboratory High School – or “Uni” as it is better known – is one of the great public high schools in the United States. It began in 1876 as a college preparatory school for the University of Illinois. In 1910 it was additionally charged to be a laboratory school for the study of applied methods of teaching. As such, Uni provides a balanced educational program for intellectual, creative, social, and physical development.

Uni High is a public school; however, as a unit within the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Uni is not supported by local property tax dollars. As a result, Uni must receive support from other sources. The State Board of Education provides the greatest portion of funds through legislative funding guidelines passed in 1983. The University of Illinois provides building maintenance, utilities, some salary support, and other services. Since Uni does not receive local property tax dollars, parents are asked to make a donation to help support the annual budget. Currently, private donations provide 30% of Uni High’s budget. Voluntary financial support from parents ensures that the experiences of today’s students match those of our remarkable graduates.

Information About Uni

Uni offers a five-year accelerated high school curriculum that begins with the subfreshman year - a combination of the seventh and eighth grades. Requirements are the following:

- Five years of English;
- Two consecutive years of French, German, Japanese, Latin, or Spanish;
- Four years of mathematics, science, and social studies;
- Five years of fitness conditioning in physical education;
- One and a half years of arts (including the subfreshman interrelated arts program that includes art, drama, and music);
- One year of computer science (including the subfreshman interdisciplinary Computer Literacy course); and
- Required health and driver’s education courses.
- Completion of Consumer Education on-line course.

Uni students have the opportunity to select other courses to add depth and breadth to their requirements. Additionally, Uni students who are at least 15 years old and have earned a “B” average may enroll concurrently in University of Illinois courses. Uni students are also eligible to work on independent study projects with UIUC professors and to take courses concurrently at Parkland College. Ninety-nine percent of Uni students attend four-year colleges or universities across the U.S. Several graduates each year defer admission to a four-year institution in order to study abroad, travel or volunteer.

Uni students also participate in a wide variety of school activities, and students may start new clubs related to their special interests after securing faculty sponsorship and Student Council approval. Membership in clubs is open to all students. Students assist the school through elected service on the Student Council and the Student-Faculty Advisory Committee. The arts and athletic programs at Uni are among the most extensive in the country for schools of similar size. The athletic program practices a “no-cut” policy that allows any student to participate in competitive athletics. The fine arts programs in music, drama, and art offer similar opportunities for students of various levels of talent. More than 66 percent of the students at Uni play on interscholastic

teams, and more than 70 percent of the students at Uni participate in fine arts activities. During the year, Uni students sponsor several school-wide programs. For example in February, during Agora Week, Uni students, parents, teachers, alumni and community experts have the opportunity to take or teach classes that represent the broad interests of the Uni community. This allows students to introduce themselves to new topics and experiences.

Admission

All current sixth and seventh graders whose parents will be living in the State of Illinois as of the first day of school are eligible to apply. An application fee of \$30 is assessed for each applicant. An application *Fee Waiver Form* is included in the application for those who are eligible for reduced or free textbooks/lunch. Students must be at least 11 years old on the first day of classes. Students who are enrolled in 8th grade should apply for 9th grade admission. Applications for admission to grades 9-11 are considered only as a space-available basis.

Uni High invites all academically talented students whose parents will be living in the State of Illinois to apply.

Admission to Uni is highly competitive. An admissions committee reviews applications on a name-blind basis and makes recommendations to the Director of University Laboratory High School. Each year, Uni accepts approximately 65 students into its subfreshman class.

The Admissions Committee considers the following criteria when making its decision:

- Demonstration of a superior school record;
- Evidence of strong academic motivation;
- Secondary School Admission Test results;
- Evidence of outstanding creativity, leadership, initiative, or interests;
- Evidence of writing ability based on the SSAT writing sample;
- Information on the application provided by the applicant;
- Two letters of recommendation from teachers of academic areas. (The Admissions Committee will only consider two letters of recommendation. Please submit only two.)

Uni strives to maintain a reasonable balance of girls and boys in the subfreshman class. Admissions decisions are made without regard to home school district, familial relationships or any affiliation with the University of Illinois. Uni strives to build a class of incoming students that is inclusive and representative of the surrounding communities. Admission is for August entry only. **Admission decisions are final. There is no appeal process.**

Uni Costs

Uni is a public school and does not charge tuition. Expenses include student fees (approximately \$720-\$970 per year) and books and supplies (approximately \$500 per year). Financial assistance to pay fees and books is available for families who can demonstrate financial need. Fee waivers are available to those who qualify under federal guidelines for free and reduced status.

Finding Out More About Uni

Students and families interested in Uni are invited to attend an informational meeting. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. on the following dates: September 17, October 8, November 5, January 7, and February 4.

The Admissions Process

- Please download the application forms directly from the Uni website: <http://www.uni.illinois.edu>.
- If you do not have access to a computer, you may contact Dr. Jeanette Nuckolls, 217-333-2870 for assistance.

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Urbana, IL 61801

- Use the release form in the admission packet to direct the applicant's current school to send official school records to Uni. Records **must** be released directly by the school to Uni. We will not accept any school records provided by an applicant.
- Ask two teachers, who have met with the student on a daily basis within the past two academic years, to complete the recommendations form for admission to Uni. We will only accept two recommendation forms. At least one recommendation must be from the current year.
- Take the Secondary School Admission Test (SSAT).
- Submit completed application with \$30 application fee by published deadline. A Fee Waiver Form is attached for those families who cannot afford the application processing fee.

The Secondary School Admission Test (SSAT)

The SSAT is the examination Uni uses to help assess an applicant's verbal, quantitative, reading, and writing aptitude; these help predict the applicant's ability to do the work at Uni. Registration forms for the SSAT are contained in the admission packet or online at <http://www.SSAT.org>.

SSAT offers a study guide (*Preparing and Applying*) for prospective applicants. The guide includes a full-length practice test, review tips and exercises, sample answer sheets, and test-scoring instructions. You can order this guide when you register for the test or use the order form of the SSAT Student Registration Guide. The fee is \$35.

Applicants for the SUBFRESHMAN class must take the middle level of the SSAT. Test dates for SUBFRESHMAN admission are October 18, November 15, December 13, January 10, and February 7. Applicants for grades 9-11 must take upper level of the SSAT. Test dates for HIGH SCHOOL admission are October 18, November 15, December 13, January 10, February 7, and March 7.

If an applicant has taken the SSAT more than once, the admission committee will consider only the test results from the last test date unless the committee receives a written request to use earlier scores.

The test fee is \$120. Sign up after the original registration deadline is \$160. To sign up for a standby test is \$200. Fee waivers are available for eligible families. To determine if the applicant is eligible for a fee waiver for the SSAT, email Barb Gerdes, baschenb@illinois.edu. (e.g. those individuals who qualify for free/reduced lunch)

For additional information about the SSAT or Sabbath Sunday accommodations, contact Barb Gerdes, baschenb@illinois.edu.

When registering for the SSAT, make sure that you request your scores be sent to University Laboratory High School (code number 7820). Uni will not accept unofficial score reports from the applicant.

SSAT scores taken before the 6th grade will not be considered.

Admission Deadlines

SUBFRESHMEN

Informational Meetings, 7 p.m.	September 17, October 8, November 5, January 7, February 4
SSAT Tests for Subfreshmen	October 18, November 15, December 13, January 10, February 7
Application Deadline	February 27, 2015
Admission Decisions Mailed to Students	April 24, 2015
Acceptance Decisions Must Be Returned to Uni	May 4, 2015

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE APPLICANT TO CONFIRM THAT THE APPLICATION IS COMPLETE AND RECEIVED BY UNIVERSITY LABORATORY HIGH SCHOOL BY THE DEADLINE. ANY MATERIALS RECEIVED AFTER THAT DATE MUST BE POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 27, 2015.

HIGH SCHOOL

Informational Meetings, 7 p.m.	September 17, October 8, November 5, January 7, February 4
SSAT Tests for High School Applicants	October 18, November 15, December 13, January 10, February 7, March 7
Application Deadline	March 20, 2015
Admission Decisions Mailed to Students	May 1, 2015
Acceptance Decisions Must Be Returned to Uni	May 8, 2015

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE APPLICANT TO CONFIRM THAT THE APPLICATION IS COMPLETE AND RECEIVED BY UNIVERSITY LABORATORY HIGH SCHOOL BY THE DEADLINE. ANY MATERIALS RECEIVED AFTER THAT DATE MUST BE POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE MARCH 20, 2015.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Dr. Jeanette Nuckolls
University Laboratory High School
1212 W. Springfield Ave.
Urbana, IL 61801
nuckolij@illinois.edu

It is the policy of the University of Illinois not to engage in discrimination or harassment against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, unfavorable discharge from the military, or status as a disabled veteran or veteran of the Vietnam era and to comply with all federal and state nondiscrimination, equal opportunity and affirmative action laws, orders, and regulations. This nondiscrimination policy applies to admissions, employment, access to and treatment in the University programs and activities. Complaints of invidious discrimination prohibited by University policy are to be resolved within existing University procedures.

For additional information or assistance on equal opportunity and access policies, as well as other University policies or information on federal and state civil right laws, please contact: Menah Pratt-Clarke, Assistant Chancellor and Director, Office of Equal Opportunity and Access, 100 A Swanlund Administration Building MC-304, 601 E. John Street, Champaign, IL 61820, (217) 333-0885.



Application for Admission

Please return to:
Admissions Committee
University Laboratory High School
1212 W. Springfield Ave
Urbana, IL 61801
(217) 333-2870

SUBFRESHMAN Application Deadline: February 27, 2015
HIGH SCHOOL (9-11) Application Deadline: March 20, 2015

Student File Information (This page is not given to Admissions Committee.)

Please use black ink and print

Full Name of Applicant: _____
Last First Middle

Home Address: _____

Is the applicant a U.S. citizen? ___ Yes ___ No If not, in which country are you a citizen? _____

How long have you lived in the U.S.? _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Information:

Name(s): _____

Email Address: _____

Home Telephone Number: _____ Work Telephone Number: _____

Applicant's Signature: _____

Parent's/Guardian's Signature: _____

It is the policy of the University of Illinois not to engage in discrimination or harassment against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, unfavorable discharge from the military, or status as a disabled veteran or veteran of the Vietnam era and to comply with all federal and state nondiscrimination, equal opportunity and affirmative action laws, orders, and regulations. This nondiscrimination policy applies to admissions, employment, access to and treatment in the University programs and activities. Complaints of invidious discrimination prohibited by University policy are to be resolved within existing University procedures.

For additional information or assistance on equal opportunity and access policies, as well as other University policies or information on federal and state civil service rights laws, please contact: Menah Pratt-Clarke, Assistant Chancellor and Director, Office of Equal Opportunity and Access, 100A Swanlund Admin. Building, MC-304, 601 E. John St., Champaign, IL 61820, 217-333-0885

Applicant Profile – Please use black ink to complete. No attachments are allowed.

Gender: _____ Birthdate: _____

Current School: _____ Current Grade: _____

City/town where you live: _____

Is a language other than English spoken daily in your home? ____ Yes ____ No

If yes, what language is spoken in your home? _____

For Affirmative Action use only:

Race/Ethnic Designation (if you identify with more than one, please indicate):

☐ Black, Non-Hispanic ☐ Alaskan Native ☐ Asian ☐ Hispanic
☐ American Indian ☐ White, Non-Hispanic ☐ Pacific Islander

Will you or any of your siblings be the first members of your immediate family (parents, grandparents) to attend college? ____ Yes ____ No

Extracurricular Activities: Use only the space provided. ONLY use black ink or tape in a typed response using not less than a 10 pt. font.

Please do not list more than 4 significant activities (camps, hobbies, music, scouting, sports, volunteer activities, work, etc.) that are important to you and comment on how they have had a significant impact on your life.

Activity	Comments
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

All answers must reflect the student's independent work.

(Use only the space provided. ONLY use black ink or tape in a typed response using not less than a 10 pt. font.)

1. Describe a personal challenge you faced at school and how you dealt with it.
2. To some degree, everyone is a product of his/her environment. How has your environment made you the person you are today? (Cultural identity, language spoken, home town, family dynamics, etc.)

3. If you had to give up one of your extra-curricular activities, which one would it be and why?

4. What is your favorite subject in school? Why? Explain what excites you about this subject.

5. Why are you applying to be a student at Uni?

6. Explain your best qualities or characteristics that make you the best applicant for Uni.

7. What are some contributions you have made to your community?

The seven essays comprising this component of the application were written by me.

Signed: _____



University of Illinois Laboratory High School

Authorization For Release Of School Records

University Laboratory High School
1212 W. Springfield Ave.
Urbana, IL 61801
(217) 333-2870

NOTE TO THE APPLICANT'S FAMILY:

Please sign this form and submit it directly to **your child's current school**. The school should send the records directly to Uni. The Admissions Committee will not consider any records provided by the applicant or the applicant's family.

TRANSCRIPT RELEASE

For _____
Print Name of Student

I consent to the release of my child's academic records to University of Illinois Laboratory High School.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

NOTE TO THE SCHOOL REGISTRAR:

The above named student is applying for admission to University of Illinois Laboratory High School. After the first semester (second quarter) of current year is completed, please submit academic information (grade reports, standardized testing) for him/her **from the previous year and the first semester (first and second quarters) of current year** to:

Admissions Committee
University Laboratory High School
1212 West Springfield Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801

Please note that these records need to arrive at University Laboratory High School no later than **February 27, 2015** for SUBFRESHMAN admission and by **March 20, 2015** for HIGH SCHOOL (9-11) admission. For your convenience, you may wish to hold all student records and mail them together if you have multiple applicants from your school. Thank you for your assistance.



Admission Recommendation Form

Please return to:
Admissions Committee
University Laboratory High School
1212 W. Springfield Ave.
Urbana, IL 61801
(217) 333-2870

Please return before **February 27, 2015**, for SUBFRESHMAN admission consideration or
before **March 20, 2015**, for HIGH SCHOOL admission consideration.

Applicant's Name: _____

To The Recommender:

University Laboratory High School serves as an educational laboratory for research, development, and dissemination of innovative curricula and approaches to teaching and learning. In determining the eligibility of applicants for a rigorous academic program with experimentation, we consider not only whether the student is highly able academically, but also whether she/he consistently demonstrates a high degree of task commitment and/or motivation, creativity, and leadership. We also seek to increase the availability of this advanced educational opportunity to groups of students traditionally underrepresented in programs for the academically talented. We appreciate your assistance in our admissions process.

To The Applicant:

Please provide your teacher with a stamped, addressed envelope to the Admissions Committee at the address above.

Under the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (Buckley Amendment), you have the right to review your educational records if you enroll at University Laboratory High School. If you choose to do so, you may waive your right of access to this specific recommendation. Your decision to waive or not to waive your right of access will have no bearing on the handling of your application by the Admissions Committee. Please check the appropriate response and sign your name below:

_____ I waive _____ I do *NOT* waive my right of access to this recommendation.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Applicant's Signature

Date

Academic Teacher Recommendation

To ensure fairness, University Laboratory High School will consider only information provided on this form. Also, as the applicant is anonymous, please do not refer to the student by name when completing the recommendation form. Written comments are particularly useful in the selection process.

NO SUPPLEMENTAL SHEETS MAY BE ATTACHED TO THIS FORM. PLEASE USE ONLY THESE SHEETS.

Name of Recommender: _____ School: _____

Position: _____ Recommender's Signature: _____

Date: _____ What course and when did you teach the student? _____

How long have you known the applicant? _____

	Excellent (top 10%)	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Absent	
Academic Potential						
Intellectual Curiosity						
Critical and Abstract Thinking						
Consideration of Non-traditional Approaches						
Willingness to Take Intellectual Risks						
Quality/Competency of Daily Preparation						
Ability to Work Independently						
Ability to Work with Others						
Organization						
Creativity						
Empathy						
Honesty/Integrity						
Emotional Stability						
Overall Evaluation as a Person						
Overall Evaluation as a Student						

PLEASE DO NOT USE THE STUDENT APPLICANT'S NAME IN ANY OF YOUR COMMENTS.

Please provide a general introduction to this student. How has this student changed or developed over the time period during which you have taught the student?

Student Applicant's Name (Print Clearly): _____
The name will not be seen by the committee.

**PLEASE DO NOT USE THE STUDENT APPLICANT'S NAME IN ANY OF YOUR COMMENTS.
DO NOT WRITE BEYOND THIS SINGLE PAGE**

Please comment on this student's character and contributions to your school community.

How does this student adapt to new people and settings?

How does this student differ from the typical student in your class?

In your opinion how well does this student's performance match his/her ability?

How would this student function in a learning environment that places high value on independence?

Please share any additional information that will give us a more complete picture of the student.

To what degree would you recommend this student to University Laboratory High School?

<input type="checkbox"/> Highly Recommend	Explain reservations _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommend	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Don't Recommend	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommend with Reservations	_____

Student Applicant's Name (Print Clearly): _____
The name will not be seen by committee.



Application Fee Invoice

University Laboratory High School
1212 W. Springfield Ave.
Urbana, IL 61801
(217) 333-2870

A *nonrefundable* application fee of \$30.00 is required for each application. Please complete this form and make your check payable to University of Illinois. Submit the form and application fee to:

University Laboratory High School
1212 W. Springfield Ave.
Urbana, IL 61801
Attention: Admissions

Date: _____

Student Applicant Name: _____

Applying for Grade: _____

Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s) Names: _____

Check #: _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received: _____

Amount: _____

Received By: _____

Date Forwarded to Business Office: _____



Application Fee Waiver

University Laboratory High School
1212 W. Springfield Ave.
Urbana, IL 61801
(217) 333-2870

Applicant Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Eligibility for fee waivers are based on federal income guidelines. Please complete the following information to apply for a waiver of the \$30 application processing fee. Attach waiver to Uni Application for Admission.

Total Household Size: _____ Monthly Income: \$ _____

TANF/Food Stamp # (if applicable): _____

The United States Department of Agriculture has issued the following income guidelines for the period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

Income Eligibility Guidelines			
Effective from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015			
Level for Free		Level for Reduced	
Household Size	Monthly	Household Size	Monthly
1	\$1,265	1	\$1,800
2	\$1,705	2	\$2,426
3	\$2,144	3	\$3,051
4	\$2,584	4	\$3,677
5	\$3,024	5	\$4,303
6	\$3,464	6	\$4,929
7	\$3,904	7	\$5,555
8	\$4,344	8	\$6,181
For each additional family member, add	\$ 440	For each additional family member, add	\$ 626