

Undergraduate Admissions Policies

Students who desire higher education to develop their intellect, character, and Christian faith are invited to apply for admission to Messiah University. Information may be requested from the Admissions Office and is also available online at www.messiah.edu.

The Undergraduate Admissions Office reviews degree-seeking students for fall and spring semesters, as well as students applying for high school dual enrollment and part-time non-degree study.

Admissions staff evaluate applications on the basis of each student's preparation for college-level courses, the relative strength of the academic program, the application personal statement and the program of study desired. The Admissions staff seeks to admit those applicants who are most likely to benefit from and contribute to the Messiah University community. Once all requested application documents are received, admission decisions are processed on a rolling or continuous basis (beginning in late August/early September).

The Undergraduate Admissions Office also identifies candidates for the University Honors Program, the Martin Scholars Program and the R.H. Flowers Program. Deadlines for consideration are available at www.messiah.edu/merit.

Bachelor's Degree Study

Students seeking admission to Messiah University to earn a bachelor's degree are considered degree-seeking applicants.

High School Students (U.S. Citizens)

Students completing a course of study at a public or private high school and seeking entrance as a first-year student should complete the following steps:

- Complete and submit the online application for Messiah University admission. Applications are available at www.messiah.edu/apply and will include an opportunity to complete a personal statement. The application fee is \$50. The application fee is waived for all who apply on or before Nov. 15.
- Submit a high school transcript. Transcripts can be submitted electronically by guidance counselors via The Common Application, other approved partners such as Naviance, Parchment or SCOIR, or via the U.S. Postal Service.
- Submit standardized test scores from SAT, ACT or CLT (optional). Students planning to submit standardized test scores for should send official scores for the SAT, ACT and/or Classic Learning Test (CLT) sent to Messiah. Messiah's SAT code is 2411 and the ACT code is 3630.

Applicants must graduate from an accredited senior high school or the equivalent prior to matriculation. Course units from grades nine through twelve should include the following:

- 4 units English
- 3 units in mathematics
- 3 units in natural science

- 3 units in social studies
- 2 units in foreign language (recommended)

The academic requirements for admission listed above is recommended. Many students who apply exceed the recommendations as listed.

Homeschooled Students

Messiah University welcomes applications from homeschooled students. The academic requirements for admission are the same as those listed in the previous section. Along with a completed application and application fee, it is important that a comprehensive transcript of the senior year academic program is submitted as well as courses and course evaluations of the ninth through eleventh grades. Transcripts require the signature of the qualified educator. A cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale should be calculated. If an independent evaluation of academic progress by a qualified educator exists, please include the evaluation with the transcript. For students choosing to apply with standardized test scores, results from the SAT, ACT or CLT should be sent directly to the Messiah University Admissions Office. See www.messiah.edu/homeschool for more information.

International Students

Messiah University welcomes applications from any student living overseas including international students (Non-US citizens) and U.S. citizens. Along with a completed application and application fee, international students must meet an English Proficiency requirement. Proficiency may be demonstrated through the submission of standardized test scores that meet required test parameters or through the completion of prior English Studies. All Non-US citizens applying for an F-1 visa are also required to submit a Statement of Finances to document financial resources. International students are eligible for academic merit-based scholarships available through Messiah University. Submitting standardized test scores from the SAT, ACT or CLT will qualify international students for the highest academic scholarships. See www.messiah.edu/international for more information.

Transfer Applicants

Students who have graduated from high school or earned a GED and enrolled at another institution of higher education at the time of application are considered transfer students. Along with a completed application and application fee, official academic transcripts from the college(s) must be submitted. A final high school transcript is required of students with fewer than 24 post-high school college credits at the time of application. Standardized test score results may be required of students with fewer than 12 post-high school credits. The minimum GPA recommended for transfer students is 2.5. Some programs/majors may require a higher GPA. An official evaluation of credits will be completed by the Messiah University Registrar's Office following the offer of admission. For more information about the transfer admissions process or course equivalencies, see www.messiah.edu/transfer.

Responding to the Offer of Admission

To accept the offer of admission, submit a \$200 enrollment deposit to reserve a space in the student body. The fee (\$200) will be applied to the first semester account. The University's policy regarding deposits follows and is in accordance with the principles of good practice of the National Association of College Admissions Counselors. A student should pay a deposit when confident of his/her decision to attend. Deposits from students should be received by May 1 for the fall semester and Dec. 1 for the spring semester. Following the submission of the enrollment deposit and prior to matriculation, first-year, domestic students are required to submit an official final high school transcript with graduation date to receive financial aid.

- Deposits received after the May 1 or Dec. 1 deadlines will be accepted if space is still available. If space is not available, the deposit will be returned and the offer of admission canceled/deferred until a later semester. If space is available, the deposit will be accepted and a space will be reserved; however, should the student subsequently cancel his/her enrollment, the deposit is non-refundable.
- This deposit is refundable to students who cancel their enrollment, provided the Admissions Office is notified by May 1 for the fall semester and by Dec. 1 for the spring semester.
- Deposits may be submitted online at www.messiah.edu/deposit. Checks should be made payable to Messiah University and mailed to the Office of Undergraduate Admission. Please include the student's name in the check memo area.

Non-Degree Study

Students seeking admission to Messiah who are interested in enrichment and do not intend to earn a bachelor's degree are non-degree seeking applicants.

Dual Enrollment

Qualified high school juniors and seniors can apply to earn college credit while still enrolled in high school. Students must submit a Dual Enrollment Application, available at www.messiah.edu/apply, for this special part-time, non-degree study. There is no application fee charged for Dual Enrollment Applications. A high school transcript, a letter of recommendation from the guidance counselor or teacher and parent permission form are required for application file review. An enrollment deposit is not necessary for dual enrollment. Students notified of admission as a dual enrollment student will receive information about course registration following admission. Students will need to reapply through the Admissions Office if not continually enrolled semester to semester. The cost per credit for dual enrollment courses is discounted. For more information, see www.messiah.edu/dual.

Part-Time, Non-Degree Study

Applicants who meet all requirements for admission for undergraduate study, but who do not intend to pursue a bachelor's degree at Messiah University may enroll as part-time, non-degree seeking students. This classification includes students who may be taking undergraduate courses for transfer credits, personal enrichment, professional development credits, Act 48, continuing education or licensing requirements, etc. Students must submit an application for

part-time, non-degree study, available at www.messiah.edu/apply. Students may take up to 11 credits as a non-degree seeking student. Any student changing from non-degree seeking to degree seeking must apply and fulfill the admission requirements for degree-seeking students.

Additional Policies

Non-Discrimination Policy

Messiah University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, disability status, status as a veteran, or age in its programs and activities. Messiah University admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, disability status, status as a veteran, or age to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the University. It does not discriminate against students or applicants for admission on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, disability, status as a veteran, or age in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic and other school administered programs, or in any other aspect of its operations.

Advanced Credit

Messiah University accepts several types of alternative credit that may be evaluated for and counted toward graduation, including Advanced Placement (AP) exams, International Baccalaureate course, CLEP examinations, dual enrollment courses and other college courses. Details about how these types of credits may apply to a student are available on the Registrar's Office website at www.messiah.edu/registrar.

Conditionally Admitted Students

Degree-seeking applicants who do not meet the criteria for admission, but who appear to have the capability to successfully complete undergraduate courses, may be admitted to Messiah University on a conditional admittance status. A conditionally admitted applicant must satisfy the conditions of his/her admittance in order to continue in the program. The specific conditions and length of time permitted to meet the stated conditions shall be detailed in the student's letter of admission.

Deferred Admission Policy

Application for degree-seeking, first-year and transfer admission to Messiah University is limited to the semester indicated on the student's application for admission. However, sometimes after a student is admitted to Messiah University, unique opportunities or personal circumstances may arise that prompt students to consider delaying their start by one or two semesters. If an accepted student's plans change, the student may defer enrollment for up to two semesters from the initial semester of admission.

Students who intend to defer will be required to submit an enrollment deposit to secure their enrollment for the future semester in which they plan to enroll. They will also be required to complete a Deferment Form to provide details about their planned deferral and verify the terms and conditions under which Messiah University will defer enrollment.

Admissions Decision Appeal Policy

A candidate who applies, but whose admission is denied, has the right to appeal the decision. Appeals must be made in written form to the Director of Undergraduate Admissions prior to the enrollment term to which the candidate applied. The letter should clearly state the grounds for appeal. Students whose appeal is accepted will be reconsidered for admission.

Revoked Admission Policy

Messiah reserves the right, in its sole discretion and judgment, to revoke or rescind admission or readmission in the event of an applicant's misrepresentation in any phase of the application process.

Last updated: 12/7/2023