

savy

Frequently Asked Questions

What is SAVY?

The Saturday Academy at Vanderbilt for the Young (SAVY) is for academically talented students and offers enriching and challenging courses for elementary and junior high school students. SAVY supplements regular school curricula by allowing students to explore the areas of science, mathematics, social studies and language arts at a pace and in a setting compatible with their abilities. SAVY is based on the philosophy that enrichment experiences for academically advanced students should promote interdisciplinary study, focus learning around key concepts, and foster the development of independent learning strategies.

What is the cost of a SAVY class?

\$400 tuition includes eight classes, classroom materials, snacks, and SAVY Chats for Parents. Vanderbilt employees are eligible for a 20-percent reduction in tuition; please contact Anne Wall if you would like to pay tuition through payroll deduction.

What is your refund policy?

After classes begin, NO refunds will be given. Notification of a withdrawal from class must be received in writing prior to issuing the refund. No refunds are granted after the first day of class.

How do I apply or qualify for financial aid?

We are committed to making our programs available to gifted students, regardless of ability to pay. About one-third of our students receive some form of financial assistance to partially cover tuition costs. Financial aid is awarded on the basis of need to students who can benefit from an SAVY course but are unable to afford the entire program fee.

If applying for financial assistance, please fill out the Financial Assistance form. Send only the \$10 nonrefundable application fee along with your most recent tax form or certification of eligibility for Free/Reduced Lunch program.

What are the admissions criteria for SAVY?

A qualified student must have scored at the 95th percentile or above on a nationally normed, standardized test.

How are SAVY applications reviewed?

Our staff carefully reviews each SAVY application to see that the student's academic abilities match up with the curriculum. We may ask students to supply additional academic information supporting their advanced achievement, such as a teacher recommendation or report card.

How do I schedule testing for my child who has no achievement test results?

Eligibility screening will take place on the Vanderbilt campus. Call Anne Wall at 322-8261 to schedule an appointment. The cost for screening is \$50.

Why should a gifted student enroll in SAVY?

- Intellectual Peers. Students enjoy spending Saturdays with other students who love to learn.
- Powerful Instruction. Master teachers from the Nashville area are chosen for their content expertise, enthusiasm, creativity, and experience with gifted learners.
- Challenging Courses. Courses are designed to stimulate and stretch the academic skills of gifted learners.
- Exposure to New Academic Territory. Students are often exposed to courses and disciplines not traditionally covered in school.
- Acceleration and Enrichment. Students move at a pace more appropriate to their abilities and delve deeper into content traditionally covered in school.

What does eligibility screening entail?

Eligibility screening will consist of an individual assessment of each student's potential using the Raven's Coloured Progressive Matrices (CPM) test and a verbal portion of the Cognitive Abilities Tests (CogAT). The screening should not last longer than ninety minutes. Students who test in the 95th percentile will be eligible for admissions into the program

Where and when are SAVY courses held?

The Pilot Semester of SAVY will be January 19- March 8, 2008. Classes will be held at University School Nashville, on the corner of Edgehill and 21st Avenue, across the street from Vanderbilt's campus. Classes will begin promptly at 9:00 and will be over at 11:30 am.

Who teaches SAVY courses?

SAVY teachers have been carefully selected through a rigorous screening process. Most SAVY faculty are certified teachers with expertise and experience in gifted education.

How big are the classes?

Class size will be limited to 12 students for grades Kindergarten through fourth, and 15 students for grades fifth through eighth.

Who is successful in an SAVY course?

The successful SAVY student is highly motivated, enthusiastic, interested in the subject matter and willing to take their interest to a higher level.

Can you receive credit for SAVY courses?

SAVY courses are for enrichment only; school credit will not be awarded.

Should I enroll my child in a course area of strength or an area of weakness?

SAVY is designed to match children with courses that are in areas of their strength and interest. The program is not designed for remedial work nor for areas of relative weakness.

Should my child bring a snack?

No, snacks will be provided for each student during the class.

Will my child receive a report card?

After the program ends, you will receive feedback from the course teacher as to how your child met particular course objectives. No information is sent to your child's school.

What is the teacher-to-student ratio?

Classes have no more than 12 students for grade Kindergarten- fourth grade. Grades fifth through eighth will have up to 15 students. All classes will have both a Master teacher and a teaching assistant.

Where can I park during SAVY?

Parking at University School is limited, however, the 21st Avenue garage will be available. There is also parking off 19th Avenue. Turn onto Edgehill Avenue, turn left onto 19th Avenue and into Lot 111.

What can I do while my child is in class?

All SAVY parents may attend the free SAVY Chats while their children are in class. These gatherings feature local experts and allow for discussion about gifted education and parenting among participants. For more information about SAVY Chats, please contact Kim Bundy, Parent Education Coordinator at kim.bundy@vanderbilt.edu.

For those parents who would like to attend a class of their own, Vanderbilt's Master of Liberal Arts and Science program is offering a series of lectures by Vanderbilt professors on the history of medicine. The tuition for this special offering from MLAS is only \$99, and is open to anyone in the community. However, SAVY parents receive preference if these classes fill. For more information about the MLAS program, go to the website: www.vanderbilt.edu/mlas.

Will classes be cancelled for inclement weather?

In the event of light snow SAVY will remain open. In the event of icy roads, heavy snow, or tornado warnings, SAVY classes will be postponed for the week. Please use your best judgment in deciding if the weather is unsafe for you and your child. An email will be sent out by 7:00 a.m. Saturday if classes must be cancelled due to inclement weather. Parents may call the Programs for Talented Youth Office for closing announcements, as a message will be on the SAVY Coordinator's phone, 615-322-0133, regarding cancellation. March 12, 2008 has been set aside as a make-up snow date.