

Duke University Talent Identification Program (TIP)

TIP Goals (for those in their 16-state region)

- To identify and serve gifted and academically talented young people;
- To inform students about their abilities and academic options;
- To work with schools, families, and communities to address the unique educational needs of gifted and talented students;
- To encourage these students in their intellectual pursuits by celebrating their abilities;
- To sponsor innovative, challenging, and highly motivating educational programs;
- To conduct research on the nature of academic talent; and
- To provide information resources for students, parents, and educators.

One of the keys to the program is having the students take above-grade-level exams. Because gifted students are already peaking in performance on grade-level exams, they need insight on their abilities from tests without a ceiling. This experience not only opens up opportunities for enrichment activities planned at the appropriate challenge level for exceptional students, but taking these tests provides practice in taking college admission exams.

4th-5th Grades

Students who score at the 95th percentile on a nationally-normed test or scored 125 or above on an IQ test are eligible to participate. Students enroll/register in the program to receive recognition and informational newsletters and handbooks for parents and students. Online learning opportunities are available entitled “Story Writing: Spin Me a Yarn, Number Secrets and Secret Codes, Book Club, and Energy: Powerful Connections in Chemistry, Biology, and Physics.” TIP also sponsors a writing contest with prizes. Students who choose to take the EXPLORE test (developed by ACT for 8th graders) will be provided with information on their academic level and potential. Duke honors students who achieve a composite score at the 99th percentile on the EXPLORE test with a medallion for their outstanding achievements.

7th Grade

Students in the 7th grade who score at the 95th percentile on a nationally-normed test are invited to take the ACT college entrance exam. Those who score a 20 or higher in English or math, and those who score a 21 or higher in reading or science, or those scoring a minimum of 19 on three of the four subtests are invited to a state recognition ceremony. Students who score 26 in science, 28 in English or math, a 30 in reading, or have a composite score of 26 are invited to the grand recognition ceremony on the campus of Duke. Students with qualifying scores are also invited to participate in college-level summer institutes and academies held throughout the southern region. Students who participate in the program also receive a TIP newsletter with beneficial information about being gifted and about college/career planning and resources.

Grants for exam fee assistance are available from TIP.

See <http://www.tip.duke.edu/index.html> for more information.