



## frequently asked questions

### **what is ags?**

AGS is a totally unique experience, designed for any Arkansas junior with exceptional abilities, creativity, and the maturity to benefit from total immersion in a Socratic learning environment. Students in the program attend classes, concerts, lectures, art exhibits, and theatrical performances and films, and have many other opportunities to learn on their own and from distinguished faculty and staff members.

The AGS curriculum emphasizes critical thinking and theory rather than practice. In other words, it asks its students to think hard about how learning and creating works, more so than it asks them to produce finished thoughts and creations. The focus is on reflection. The atmosphere is one of intellectual excitement and curiosity.

The program is funded through the State Department of Education, and participation for all selected students is free of charge.

### **who is eligible to apply for ags?**

Any high school junior living in Arkansas.

### **how do I get selected for ags?**

Your high school needs to nominate you. Your guidance counselor can tell you how the process works in your school. Then you must be selected by committees appointed by the State Department of Education. The AGS program is not involved in the selection process.

### **how long does ags last?**

AGS lasts for six weeks during the summer. The 2018 session will open on June 10 and close on July 21. There is a mid-session break from 3:30 p.m. July 3 to 8:00 p.m. July 8.

### **how much does ags cost?**

There is NO CHARGE for tuition, room, board, or classroom materials. Participants will be responsible only for transportation to and from the school and for any personal expenses such as snacks, laundry, general school supplies, etc. There is no charge for use of any of the recreational facilities, libraries, or attendance at special events.

### **where do I live during ags? will I have a roommate? how are roommates assigned?**

Students live in single-sex residence halls on the campus of Hendrix College. Roommates are assigned at random (requests are not taken). Resident Assistants live in the residence halls with the students.

### **where do I eat during ags?**

Meals are provided in the campus cafeteria. Vegetarian options are always available. "The Burrow," the Hendrix

campus center and café, is open in the afternoon and evenings for students to purchase snacks. Students may also order delivery food from various restaurants in the evenings.

### **what is a typical day like at ags?**

Every student attends classes in their concentration (Area I) twice a day Monday through Friday and once on Saturday. Three times a week students attend classes in General Conceptual Development (Area II) and Personal and Social Development (Area III). On Tuesdays and Thursdays students attend lectures with guest speakers. Most events and activities in the afternoons and evenings are optional, but sometimes there is required attendance for performances or films. Optional activities include Q&A sessions with guest speakers, recreational activities, or interesting lectures. Check out past schedules on our website to get a better idea. Students must return to their residence halls by 10:30 p.m.

### **how many students will be in my classes?**

Most classes have 15-18 students.

### **when will course descriptions be released?**

Course descriptions are typically finalized during the week prior to the beginning of each AGS session. Please check the website a few days before the start of the session for new Area I course descriptions. Past course descriptions are available for viewing on the website, but please be aware that while some courses may be offered for several years, many courses change each year as new faculty join the program.

### **what kinds of things can I do outside of classes?**

Students have access to the library, internet-equipped computers, music practice rooms, the swimming pool and many different recreation facilities. There are often organized games, discussion groups, and activities. Take a look at past schedules on our website to get an idea of the many possibilities.

### **when will weekly activities schedules be released?**

The first weekly activities schedule of each session is finalized the day before the session begins. You will receive your first weekly activities schedule the night you arrive to AGS. Subsequent weekly activities schedules will be distributed on preceding Sunday nights during the session. Digital copies will be posted to the AGS website.

### **can people come visit me at ags?**

Students may have visitors on Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Also, on Sundays, students may be checked out from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. by adults designated by the student's parent or guardian.



### **can I leave ags for a special event or appointment?**

Leaves can be granted for significant events. Our formal leave of absence policy can be found on our website.

### **will I have access to the internet at ags?**

A monitored computer lab with internet access is open to students seven days a week during specific hours. Students are not allowed to bring computers from home or to have computers in their residence hall rooms.

### **what should I bring to ags?**

You don't need to bring all these things, but none of these are provided by AGS. Clothing appropriate to your study field, sweaters, swimsuits, pajamas, blankets, sheets, pillows, bedspread, pillowcases, laundry bag, laundry detergent, quarters for laundry machines, towels (bath and pool), washcloths, toiletries, umbrella, waste basket, broom/mop, cleaning supplies, alarm clock, watch, radio, telephone, camera, extension cord, desk lamp (no halogen or quartz), electric fan, hangers, notebooks, pens/pencils, dictionary and other desk supplies. You may wish to bring sports equipment such as swim goggles, tennis equipment, baseball gloves, or Frisbees. You may also bring musical instruments and associated equipment. All items (including all articles of clothing) should be marked with the owner's name.

### **is there anything I can't bring to ags?**

Computers, tablets (e.g. iPads, Kindles, Nook, and other internet devices), televisions, video game devices, electric heaters, hot plates or other food-warming appliances, fireworks, explosives, cigarettes or smoking materials, tobacco products, butane lighters, halogen lamps, quartz light bulbs/lamps, candles, incense, fluid lamps/lanterns, skates (of any kind), skateboards, scooters (of any kind), bicycles, unicycles, hoverboards, drones, weapons (of any kind), toys that look like weapons, walkie-talkies, and handcuffs (or anything like that!). Anything illegal to you as a minor or otherwise is strictly forbidden including alcohol and other illegal drugs including prescription drugs not prescribed specifically for you.

### **how can people send me mail while I'm at ags?**

Each student is given a box number at which they can receive mail throughout the summer. Packages can also be dropped off at the AGS office for students to pick up.

### **can I attend religious services while at ags?**

AGS faculty and staff members drive vans to local churches on Sunday mornings.

### **how are ags students kept safe and secure?**

A variety of security measures are in place throughout the summer. 24-hour public safety officers can be reached by phone or at emergency boxes around campus. All students, faculty, staff, and guests are required to wear nametags. This helps us easily identify people who don't belong on campus. RAs make regular rounds of the residence halls and grounds to keep an eye on students and make sure they attend class. Additionally, students must check into their residence hall by 10:30 p.m. each night.

### **what health care facilities are available at ags?**

A nurse is available from 8:00 a.m. to noon every weekday. Students with special health or medical needs who are considering attending AGS should contact the AGS office to discuss their situation. A clinic and a hospital are within one mile of campus.

### **is ags affiliated with hendrix college?**

Hendrix College hosts AGS, and the director of the program is a member of the Hendrix faculty. The program is run in accordance with regulations set by the State Department of Education. Otherwise, the program is not an extension of Hendrix.

### **can I smoke or drink alcohol at ags?**

Smoking and drinking are absolutely forbidden for AGS students.

### **do I get any kind of credit for going to ags?**

No academic credit is awarded to students of AGS. Being a part of the program is its own reward.

### **are laundry facilities available? how much do they cost?**

Laundry facilities are available in each residence hall. It costs \$1.50 to wash a load and \$1.50 to dry one. Students are responsible for their own laundry.

## **for more information**

- Talk to AGS alumni at your school.
- Talk to a GT coordinator, counselor, teacher, or principal at your school.
- Visit the AGS website at: [www.hendrix.edu/ags](http://www.hendrix.edu/ags)
- Email questions to [ags@hendrix.edu](mailto:ags@hendrix.edu)

- Contact: Office of Gifted and Talented and Advanced Placement  
Arkansas Department of Education  
Four Capitol Mall, Slot 28  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201  
(501) 682-4224

<http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/gifted-and-talented-and-advanced-placement>