



GECA

DR. TJ OWENS GILROY EARLY COLLEGE ACADEMY

BE SOMEONE • GO SOMEWHERE • SEEK EXCELLENCE

Application Packet

Student Last Name

Student First Name

I am applying for admission to the Gilroy Early College Academy for the:

Fall Semester (2020-21)

- Applying to GECA is a three-step process:
 1. Complete and submit this **paper application** (and all of its components – see checklist below) by 4:00 PM on November 22, 2019.
 - **Applications must be submitted in person to the GECA office at Gavilan College** during the application period of October 14 – November 22, 2019.
 2. Submit results from the **PSAT 8/9** as soon as possible (but before January 31, 2020) to schedule your interview time
 - **8th Grade GUSD Students** will be taking the PSAT 8/9 on 11/4/2019 at their middle schools; results will be available online through your child’s CollegeBoard account, and you should receive a paper copy of their PSAT results in the mail or from the school. *PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COPY*
 - **NON-GUSD Students** will have the opportunity to take the PSAT 8/9 on 12/11/2019 at GECA from 3:15 – 8:00 PM.
 - Students who **do not** take or submit PSAT 8/9 results will not be eligible for college classes in their first year at GECA.
 3. Participate in an **in-person interview** on the morning of Saturday, 02/08/2020. *Your child’s interview time will be scheduled when his/her PSAT 8/9 results are submitted.*
- Final admissions decision notifications are sent the third week of March. Incoming Freshman Orientation will take place in April.
- Questions may be directed to the GECA office at (408) 846-4909

Please ensure that all of the following (if applicable) are submitted with this application packet:

- Copy of the candidate’s school records
 - Academic transcript (these are the cumulative grades for middle school)
 - Current year grade report or progress report from his/her current school
 - Disciplinary records
 - Attendance records
- Copy of candidate’s most recent California CAASPP Test Results (If not available, please provide results from another recent standardized test your child has taken)
- Two completed Student Assessment and Recommendation forms (One from your **current English teacher** and one from your **current Math teacher** - Link available on GECA site
 - **NAME & E-MAIL OF MATH TEACHER:** _____
 - **NAME & E-MAIL OF ENGLISH TEACHER:** _____
- Student Essay
- Parent Essay

Students with an IEP or Section 504 plan should provide confirmation either with the application or **prior to** the student’s February interview that their IEP team has determined that GECA will be an appropriate placement for them.



GECA

DR. TJ OWENS GILROY EARLY COLLEGE ACADEMY

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Thank you for your interest in attending the Dr. TJ Owens Gilroy Early College Academy at Gavilan Community College. Dr. TJ Owens Gilroy Early College Academy is an educational partnership between Gilroy Unified School District and Gavilan College and is one of the Early College High Schools that was initially funded through the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Applying to GECA is a three-step process:

1. Complete and submit this **paper application** (and all of its components – see checklist below) by 4:00 PM on November 22, 2019.
2. Submit results from the **PSAT 8/9** as soon as possible (but before January 31, 2020) to schedule your interview time. Students who **do not** take or submit PSAT 8/9 results will not be eligible for college classes in their first year at GECA.
3. Participate in an **in-person interview** on the morning of Saturday, 02/08/2020.

The Academy is an innovative, academic environment designed to serve motivated students with high academic achievement potential. Early College High Schools are small schools that seek to (1) prepare at-risk high school students for successful career and educational futures through a full integration of a rigorous high school and college academic venue with the world of work; (2) improve academic performance and self-concept; and (3) increase high school and college/university completion rates.

From those students who demonstrate the required academic potential, we then look for students who meet one or more of the following criteria, based on the Early College High School mission of serving students traditionally underrepresented in a four-year university setting:

- First in the immediate family (parents and siblings) to attend and graduate from a four-year college or university
- From a low income family (qualifies for free/reduced lunch)
- Speak a language at home that is other than English
- Faced with special circumstances that may be obstacles to future academic achievement in a traditional high school environment

Admittance to the Academy is not limited to students meeting the above-mentioned criteria. It is based on a holistic review of the student's completed/submitted application, which includes this completed student assessment and recommendation, a personal essay, a parent statement, most recent CAASPP (or standardized test) scores, previous academic achievement, and results/recommendation from an interview panel. Applicants should have an overall GPA of 2.5 – 4.0, CAASPP scores in the "Meeting or Exceeding Standards" range, a history of excellent attendance and citizenship with minimal school discipline issues, and the ability to read above the 9th grade level.

Application to the academy is open to all students, regardless of school district of residence. While the program primarily serves students who apply from Gilroy Unified School District, GECA also considers students who apply from surrounding school districts that are part of the Gavilan Community College attendance region. GECA shall not engage in unlawful discrimination against any student, employee, or applicant for either attendance or employment. All educational programs are available without regard to actual or perceived race, color, ancestry, religion, national origin, nationality, ethnicity, ethnic group identification, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or gender expression or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

Upon acceptance, students will be enrolled in Honors and Advanced Placement high school courses and up to 11 units a semester of transferable college courses after their fall semester their 9th grade year. All AP and transferable college courses receive accelerated grade point weighting for high school GPA computation.

We are a tightly knit school community that is, in many respects, a second family. We have our fun, too, with student government, clubs, dances, proms, field trips, and other special events. Students may participate in Gilroy High School Marching Band and Color Guard. Additionally, both music and drama instruction/participation are available through Gavilan. As you can see, except for competitive sports teams, we have many extra-curricular opportunities and events. We look forward to receiving your application packet and to meeting you soon!

STUDENT INFORMATION

Name: _____
 Last First Middle

Gender: M F Date of Birth: ____/____/____

Home Address: _____
 Street City ZIP

Student Email Address: _____ Student Cell Phone #: _____

How did you hear about GECA: Teacher ____ Counselor ____ Other student ____ Middle School Visit ____
 Other (please specify) _____

ACADEMIC HISTORY

What is your current school District? _____

What school do you currently attend? _____

Address of Current School _____

If you did not attend GECA, what high school would you be attending? _____

Do you currently have a sibling attending the Early College Academy? Y N

If yes, indicate student name: _____

(Note: Participation in the GECA program by a sibling does not guarantee placement.)

Language Proficiency: *Please answer all four questions below*

1. What language did this student learn when first beginning to talk? _____	2. What language does this student <i>most frequently</i> use at home? _____
3. What language does this student's parent use most frequently to speak to this student? _____	4. What language is most often spoken by the adults at home? _____

Educational Support Services Data (To be completed by parents/guardians)

<p>Has your student received Special Education or Section 504 Services within the last 12 months? Y N</p> <p>If yes, we request that a Transition Meeting occur with the IEP team prior to the student's February interview to ensure that GECA will be an appropriate placement for students with IEPs. Confirmation that this determination has been made by the IEP team is required for acceptance into the program.</p>
<p>Has your student received English Language Acquisition support services? Y N</p> <p>If yes, please indicate your student's current classification:</p> <p>EL (English Learner) ELPAC Level: _____</p> <p>RFEP (Reclassified Fluent English Proficient) Year of Reclassification: _____</p>

Does your student currently receive a free or reduced cost lunch? Y N

Parent/Guardian Information

Parent / Guardian #1

Name:
Relationship to Student:
Home Address:
City, ZIP
Home Phone:
Work Phone:
Cell Phone:
Email Address:
Does the student reside with you? Yes No If "Yes": Full-time Part-time
Level of parent/guardian education: <i>Circle below AND write degree obtained:</i> _____ Not a High School Graduate HS Graduate Some College College Graduate Graduate School

Parent / Guardian #2

Name:
Relationship to Student:
Home Address:
City, ZIP
Home Phone:
Work Phone:
Cell Phone:
Email Address:
Does the student reside with you? Yes No If "yes": Full-time Part-time
Level of parent/guardian education: <i>Circle below AND write degree obtained:</i> _____ Not a High School Graduate HS Graduate Some College College Graduate Graduate School

The Honor Code

While we emphasize strong academic accomplishment at GECA, we are also committed to your development as a person of quality and worth. Our school is governed under a unique document known as The Honor Code of the Dr. TJ Owens Gilroy Early College Academy, the basic tenets of which are honesty, personal integrity, accountability, and respect for diversity and equity.

We tolerate no discipline issues at either GECA or at Gavilan College. Defiance, disrespect, and/or disobedience are not part of our culture, and you are expected to conduct yourself in a manner that is fully compliant with the GECA Honor Code, the Gilroy Unified School District Student Code of Conduct, and the Student Conduct Code of Gavilan College.

Both you and your parents will need to carefully read the Honor Code, and then sign it, indicating your understanding and agreement.

**The Honor Code of the
Dr. TJ Owens Gilroy Early College Academy at Gavilan College**

Purpose and Scope:

- To foster an atmosphere of mutual trust and interdependence among students, faculty, and parents
- To encourage both individual self-respect and the appreciation of, and respect for, diversity within the GECA and Gavilan communities
- To promote honesty, integrity, and individual human dignity among the student body
- To reinforce the ongoing commitment of the Gilroy Early College Academy to rigor, achievement, and excellence in all academic areas

Each student, upon acceptance to the Gilroy Early College Academy, and, by virtue of that acceptance, shall automatically ascribe to the following:

As a responsible member of the student body of the Gilroy Early College Academy, I realize that *everything* I do and say must be above reproach. I will be honest with myself and with others, and I will practice appreciation of, and respect for, diversity within the GECA and Gavilan communities. I will refrain from all acts of dishonesty and intolerance, and I will not accept those acts from others. I will actively encourage my fellow students to follow the highest standards of both personal integrity and academic excellence.

I recognize that attending the Gilroy Early College Academy is a privilege not to be taken lightly, and that we, as a school family, are guests of Gavilan College, and that I must, therefore, conduct myself appropriately at all times and in all situations.

I understand that my enrollment at GECA gives expressed, and implied, consent to be governed by the Honor Code of the Early College Academy. I, and my parents/guardians, formally acknowledge our assent by my acceptance into, and attendance at, the Early College Academy.

I also understand that, should I be accused of any Honor Code violation, I will be examined by the Honor Tribunal, allowed to hear testimony both for and against my case, and will be presumed to be innocent of any violation until the Tribunal either determines guilt or confirms my innocence. If found guilty of a violation, I understand that I will be subject to disciplinary action, up to, and including, removal from the Gilroy Early College Academy program.

I, as a prospective student, I understand, and agree to comply fully with the Honor Code of the Dr. TJ Owens Gilroy Early College Academy at Gavilan College.

Student Name (Printed): _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

I/we, as parent(s)/guardian(s) of this student, understand the Honor Code of the Dr. TJ Owens Gilroy Early College Academy at Gavilan College. Further, I/we also acknowledge and understand our student's obligation to conduct himself/herself under the Code.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Candidate Essay and Statement

1. Compose a typed single-spaced essay (2 pages maximum length), using Times New Roman, 12 point font, with 1” margins all around. Your essay will be assessed on content and conventions. Make sure that your name is typed in the upper right hand corner of the paper and attach it to your application.

- Introduce yourself and provide a brief biographical background.
- Explain why you believe that the Gilroy Early College Academy is the optimum choice for your high school experience. *Be specific with your answer.*
- After carefully reading the Honor Code of our school explain what attributes you possess that will help you uphold the Honor Code. *Be specific with your answer.*
- Tell us anything else about you or your family that you would like for us to know.

2. What two words would you use to describe yourself?

3. These points are the expectations of all students participating in the GECA program. **Initial each statement** indicating your *understanding and agreement*.

 I will be enrolled in, and successfully complete, at least one (1) college level course each semester (beginning spring semester of freshman year).

 I will devote a minimum of 2-4 hours each evening to homework and study.

 I will arrive at school every day and to all my classes – both high school and college - on time.

 I will attend school every day, and, when required to be absent, have a parent or legal guardian call and notify the school that day. Any unexcused absence is a violation of the GECA Honor Code.

 I will conduct myself at all times in a mature manner and in accordance with the principles of the GECA Honor Code and Gavilan Student Conduct Code.

 I recognize that should I break any principles in the GECA Honor Code and/or Gavilan Student Conduct Code, I may be brought up in front of my peers to Honors Tribunal.

 I will achieve at high academic level at GECA, including all college level courses. I clearly understand that if my cumulative high school GPA drops below 2.5, **I may** be asked to return to my home area high school, and that all probation and dismissal policies of Gavilan College will also apply. I also understand that if my GPA drops below a 2.0 during two consecutive semesters, **I will** be asked to withdraw and return to my home high school.

 I will be enrolled in, and actively participate in, GECA guidance classes (AcaPrep, Senior Project) during all four years of attendance at GECA.

 I will successfully complete all GUSD and GECA graduation requirements.

 I will perform well in college-level courses, satisfying all course requirements, advisories, and prerequisites.

Parent (Legal Guardian) Statement

On a separate sheet of paper, please tell us why you would like for your student to attend the Gilroy Early College Academy, and why you believe that he/she will prosper. In addition, please carefully read our school's Honor Code on page 5 and provide a comment on it. *Be as brief or as detailed as you feel is necessary.*

Initial each statement indicating your *understanding and agreement*.

___ Students will be enrolled in, and successfully complete, at least one college level course each semester and to devote a minimum of 2-4 hours each evening to homework and study.

___ Students will arrive at school every day and to all my classes – both high school and college - on time.

___ Students will attend school every day, and when absent, parents are expected to call and notify the school that day. Any unexcused absence is a violation of the GECA Honor Code.

___ Students will conduct themselves, at all times, in a mature manner and in accordance with the principles of the GECA Honor Code and Gavilan Student Conduct Code.

___ Should students violate the Honor Code and/or Gavilan Student Conduct Code, I/We acknowledge that my student(s) may be brought forward in front of their peers in Honors Tribunal.

___ Students will achieve at high academic level at GECA, including all college level courses. I/We understand that if a student's cumulative high school GPA drops below 2.5, he/she will be placed on academic probation and **may be** asked to return to his/her home high school. I also understand that if a student's cumulative high school GPA drops below a 2.0 for two consecutive semesters, **he/she will be** asked to return to his/her home high school. All Gavilan College probation/dismissal policies also apply.

___ Students will be enrolled, and actively participate in, GECA guidance classes (AcaPrep, Senior Project) during all four years of attendance at GECA.

___ Students will successfully complete all GUSD and GECA graduation requirements and to attend college after graduation.

___ I/We am/are aware of the recommended commitment to volunteer at least four (4) hours each semester in support of my student and the school. In addition, I/We understand that we automatically become members of the PTSA of the Gilroy Early College Academy.

___ I/We understand that my/our student will be part of a diverse collegiate learning community. The content of college courses assumes a college-age level of maturity with regard to both academic demands and course content. Further, I/we acknowledge that the college environment is an adult atmosphere that does not necessarily have same level of personal restrictions inherent in a high school.

___ I/We affirm that my/our student has NOT been suspended or expelled from any public or private school in either California or any other state for an offense involving weapons, alcohol or drugs, and/or gang related activities.

___ I/We affirm that my/our student has NOT been involved in the commission of any willful infliction of injury to another person, and/or the commission of any act of violence against either persons and/or property while on school premises, attending any school-sponsored activity, or during transportation (public or private) to or from school or any school related activity.