Appalachian’s GEAR UP Guarantee

Background
Appalachian State University has been working with 11 school districts to serve over 15,000 middle and high school students since 2015 through the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP). With this program now serving its first cohort of seniors, Appalachian State is rolling out the GEAR UP Guarantee. This is a program offered in collaboration with Appalachian State and school districts to provide a seamless pathway for high school students to enroll at Appalachian State.

With this program, current seniors attending a GEAR UP high school that meet specific academic requirements and application deadlines are guaranteed admission to Appalachian. This effort will ensure that students in all GEAR UP districts remain confident of the value and success that they bring to the Appalachian community. Additionally, this program will provide opportunities for support that these students may need to complete the admissions process at Appalachian so they can compete for spots in Appalachian’s most selective Signature Scholarships and Selective Academic Programs. Students that do not meet the requirements of the GEAR UP Guarantee will still be considered for admission and are encouraged to apply as early as possible as Appalachian will maintain the holistic review process for all students. To read more about holistic admission, see Harvard’s Turning the Tide campaign.

Students are encouraged to discuss their individual college goals and pathways with a school counselor or college adviser. While this program is intended to offer a more flexible and seamless pathway to Appalachian State University, it is important that all students are exposed to and can consider all of their options to best meet their college and career goals.

Details
Application Submission Deadline: November 1, 2019*
All Supporting Materials Due: November 15, 2019*
*Due to the roll-out timeline in the 2019-2020 admissions cycle, applications submitted by December 1, 2019, with all supporting materials submitted by December 15, 2019, will be eligible for the GEAR UP Guarantee. However, submitting beyond November 15, 2019 would prevent students from consideration for Signature Scholarships, the ACCESS Scholarship, and Selective Academic Programs. These students would, however, still be reviewed for the Appalachian Excellence Scholarship.

To Qualify:
- Minimum weighted GPA of a 3.50;
- Meet the minimum admission requirements (MAR) and minimum course requirements (MCR) for admission to the UNC System; and
- Successfully complete a Criminal Background Check and Conduct Review as required by the UNC System

Required Materials:
- A non-refundable application fee of $65 (USD) – Appalachian accepts Official Application Fee Waivers from Common App, the College Board, ACT and National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC)
- Official high school/secondary school transcript
- Official or self-reported test scores - official scores required at enrollment  
- College transcripts (of any completed coursework)  
- Application essay (a response to one of the seven Common App prompts)

Students meeting the GEAR UP Guarantee requirements can anticipate an admission decision within two to six weeks after completing the application for admission.

Promotion Plan
Deadline: October 15, 2019
Contacts: Dr. Alexis Pope, Director of Admissions @ Appalachian State University; Corinne Smith, Senior Associate Director for GEAR UP @ Appalachian State University; Pressley Laton, Assistant Director of Admissions @ Appalachian State University
Plan: section of the admissions [website](#) devoted to this program (to be updated by 10/11/19), section of the GEAR UP website devoted to this program (to be updated by 10/15/19), announcement and feedback time on the call with all of the GEAR UP coordinators (Thurs - 10/10/2019), follow up email to all GEAR UP contacts, email campaign to all school counseling contacts through Admissions on Friday, Oct 11, press release from Appalachian UCOMM (all announcements will mention upcoming press release).