

SY25-26 and SY26-27 McKinley Technology High School: Admissions Process Rubric

For Grades: 9-11*

Note: This rubric will be in effect for SY25-26 and SY26-27 admissions.

About the McKinley Technology Admissions Criteria: McKinley Technology High School is a 2022 National Blue Ribbon Award winner. A STEM-focused school with three Distinguished National Academy Foundation (NAF) Academies for applicants to select from: Information Technology, Engineering, and Biotechnology. We are looking for scholars who have a passion for learning, take pride in their community, who can embrace challenges and are committed to personal growth. We find the most successful applicants are those who take an active role in the learning process, are willing to try new things, are focused on achieving academic success, and have an interest in STEM-related fields. We are looking for well-rounded individuals who will commit to their education and to their school community.

About the McKinley Technology Admissions Process: McKinley Technology High School will first review all applicants report cards and recommendation letters. A 3.0 or higher GPA in the four core subjects – English, History, Math, and Science is required for all applicants. Typically, successful applicants have demonstrated success in Math, Science, and English courses in middle school.

Each component of the admissions process is scored and weighted according to the chart below. The report cards and recommendation letters at time of the application review are the threshold criteria that are first considered in the admission process. The highest scoring applicants based on these criteria will be invited to participate in the next step of the admissions process – the group interview, which includes an on-site writing sample. The applicants with the top cumulative scores from the application review, group interview, and on-site writing sample may be marked eligible for admission. Remaining applicants, based on their cumulative scores, may be asked to participate in a second, individual interview before an eligibility determination is made. Applicants who are invited to an individual interview are required to participate for further consideration.

There is a total of 300 possible points total to be earned in the admissions process. The applicants who were eligible based on the application review, group interview, and writing sample are ranked first, followed by applicants invited to the individual interview. All eligible applicants are ranked according to total points earned.

*McKinley Technology HS will review applicants entering the 11th grade if the applicant has sufficient credits in a similar program of study to enter on track to meet our school's graduation requirements.

Admissions Component	Weight	Notes
Academic Criteria Review (GPA and Recommendations)	(100 points)	<p>While McKinley Technology High School reviews grades (GPA), 3.0 required. Applicants must submit their Final SY23-24 and SY24-25 First Quarter report cards. GPA calculated for English, History, Math and Science only.</p> <p>Within the application review, grades weigh 100.</p> <p>McKinley Tech uses teacher recommendations to better understand an applicant’s experience at school and to provide context to their report card.</p> <p>We request two (2) recommendations. If only one is completed by the requested teachers, we will assess the applicant based on the submissions. If no recommendations are submitted, then the school will reallocate the points to the Report Card review.</p>
<p>Applications will be ranked based on the above criteria. The top ranking 30% of applicants with the highest GPAs will automatically be invited for the group interview and writing sample portion of the admissions process.</p>		
Group Interview	(100 points)	<p>McKinley Tech believes strongly in identifying applicants with a passion for STEM, a strong sense of curiosity, commitment to community, and who demonstrate perseverance.</p> <p>This will be a group interview with no more than three to five applicants total per group. During the group interview. Students will be asked a series of questions regarding their interest in McKinley Tech, their academics, extracurricular, and other interests; their learning styles, needs, desires; questions about school community, what they expect from their high school experience and more.</p> <p>Based on health guidance and family circumstances, interviews may be requested to be conducted virtually.</p>
On-Site Writing Sample (completed during Group Interview)	(60 points)	<p>McKinley Tech uses the writing sample to assess applicant interest in our program, commitment to community, and experiences demonstrating personal perseverance.</p> <p>While this written sample is not evaluated specifically for vocabulary, grammar, etc., it is used to help demonstrate the student’s ability to formulate and construct complete thoughts and general ability to communicate through text.</p>



		Based on health guidance and family circumstances, interviews (which include the completion of the on-site writing sample) may be requested to be conducted virtually.
Recommendations	(40 points)	Recommendation scores from English and Math teachers will be calculated and added to the student's total score.
Applicants are ranked in order based on their total cumulative points. The applicants who were eligible based on the report card review, group interview, writing sample, and recommendation points will be ranked by cumulative score earned. All eligible applicants are ranked according to total points earned.		