

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where is the school located?

Lighthouse Preparatory Academy is located at Columbia College's Jefferson City Campus. The address is 3314 Emerald Lane, Jefferson City, Mo 65109.

Who teaches the students?

We employ professionally qualified Christian teachers on a part-time basis to teach classes. Teachers must meet a defined set of criteria, first and foremost of which is a close personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and also a love for teaching children.

What if parents aren't teachers? How can they teach their children if they have never homeschooled?

Parents need not have teaching experience. Lighthouse Preparatory Academy will take the lead in the area of academics. All new concepts will be introduced and taught at school by paid professionals while the application of the concept will take place at home, much like that of college studies. Lighthouse Preparatory Academy teachers will provide detailed assignment sheets each week and will maintain open lines of communication. Parents will act as co-instructors under the guidance of the classroom teacher. In addition, Lighthouse Preparatory Academy will offer training to parents in various areas including academics and character development. Finally, bear in mind that as a child progresses to higher grade levels, the academic role of the parent gradually migrates from that of co-instructor to proctor/mentor so that by the time a student graduates, he is prepared (trained and experienced) to assume the individual responsibility required for success at the collegiate level.

My wife and I both work full time outside our home. Would UMS work for us?

One of the most important ingredients in the success of the University Model is an available parent who can assist and properly work with the student. For a family

in which both parents work outside the home on a full-time basis, a more traditional 35-40 hours/week school is probably a better choice.

Will there be an entrance exam for admission to Lighthouse Prep?

Yes, as part of the Admission process, an entrance exam will be required to assess the likelihood of success in the school and to determine the appropriate placement of incoming students.

Can students transfer into Lighthouse Prep after being in other schools?

Yes, students who transfer will be subject to an entrance/placement examination.

I have children in several different grade levels. How much time will each need to spend doing schoolwork on their days at home?

A rule of thumb at university-model schools is that for every hour spent in the classroom, the student will need to spend an additional hour on that subject in the "satellite classroom" at home. This rule, of course, varies according to the need. If a student is academically strong in a particular area, perhaps less time will be needed. If a student is weak in a subject or the subject is particularly challenging, then more time will be needed. Parents need to be alert to each of their children's individual needs and lead them accordingly in the structuring of their time.

Since parents are team teaching with the teachers at school, how does communication take place between the two?

Communication between teachers and parents plays a large role in a UMS, and there are several ways that clear communication can take place. First, each course is described, along with its prerequisite and parent role, in the school catalog. The parent role is defined for each course so that parents understand the required level of assistance for their children. Vitally important are the printed weekly assignment sheets that are prepared by the teacher to be taken home and reviewed by the parent with the student. Instructions to parents are included as part of these assignment sheets as are long-term study projects that are

forthcoming. Parents are also invited to communicate any of their questions back to the teacher as needed.

Will Lighthouse Preparatory Academy offer foreign languages? Why?

Yes, Lighthouse Preparatory Academy students will be encouraged to take both Spanish and Latin. The ability to speak Spanish is invaluable. It is a tool not only for daily living but also for ministry and witness. The study of a foreign language at an early age enhances brain development and improves one's ability to correctly pronounce the foreign language. The study of both Latin and Spanish also tends to expand students' vocabularies through an understanding of Latin root words, suffixes and prefixes and it also enhances their grammar skills as they begin to understand parts of speech and linguistic patterns. In addition, contrary to popular belief, the study of a foreign language, including Latin, guards against arrogance. In his studies, a child begins to recognize that his world, his language, his vocabulary and his way of expressing himself are only one way of living and thinking in a big, complicated world. Finally, the very process of learning a foreign language requires mental gymnastics that strengthen the mind.

Will there be a dress code at Lighthouse Preparatory Academy?

Yes. For more information, please see [Dress Code](#).

When will we apply for acceptance to Lighthouse Preparatory Academy?

Applications will be accepted through the first week of school, provided that space is available. Enrollment is made on a semester basis. Students may continue to be admitted throughout the year. Enrollment, however, can only be made at the beginning of each semester. For more information, please see [Admissions](#).

What is the cost of tuition?

Because of the nature of the university-model, the cost of tuition for a full time student will be less than a typical 5-day-a-week school. However, our desire to attract and retain the very best teachers will be reflected in our tuition as well.

Tuition will be between \$200-\$300 per course per semester. Certain core courses, such as math and language arts, may be longer than one hour and will be priced higher.

Affordability for all families is maintained by allowing students to enroll in as few as one course per semester. Further, we hope to establish a tuition assistance program in the future so that this type of education is accessible on a full time basis by any family.

Is your school governed by a church?

No, a board of men and women from this community govern the school.

Is your school a non-profit organization?

Yes, Lighthouse Preparatory Academy is a non-profit corporation formed in the state of Missouri and governed by a board of trustees. We are in the process of filing an application with the Internal Revenue Service to be recognized as a 501(c)(3) organization, charitable contributions to which are tax deductible. This application is still in process at this time.

Will this type of schooling fulfill state requirements?

Yes, it will parallel requirements in the core subjects, and should exceed the requirements for grade levels. We will seek accreditation through the Association of Classical and Christian Schools (ACCS), and /or other accreditation organizations in the future.

Are colleges accepting students from University Model schools? What makes them attractive to college over other students?

Students from the original University-Model School in Arlington, Texas, which has been in operation since 1993, have had no difficulty in gaining entrance to colleges and universities nationwide. In fact, the majority of graduates have been awarded scholarships for academic achievement, student leadership, and athletic or artistic

ability. UM schools stay informed on the current and projected entrance requirements of the major four-year universities. This allows school officials to be sure that the course offerings are meeting or exceeding college standards. In addition, UMS students are attractive to colleges because of their strong work ethic, successful study habits, leadership skills, and character as demonstrated through various student activities – academic, athletic, artistic, and governmental.

How are UMS students doing on college entrance tests?

Despite admission policies aimed at average students, the UMS students score much higher on college entrance tests than the average scores nationwide.

What do UMS graduates who are in college say about how well-prepared they were in high school?

Graduates from the original University-Model School in Arlington, Texas report overwhelmingly that they were extremely well-prepared for their freshman college classes. First, they were prepared by the University-Model system itself. The schedule, work ethic, and necessary study skills were dynamics to which they were already accustomed. Second, they were prepared academically: the UMS course content was consistently more than adequate to get students ready for college. It also has not been uncommon for many UMS graduates to begin college with several college credits already on their transcript, having placed out of certain courses by virtue of their high school preparation.