

Marquette Deferment and Gap Year Policy

A small number of accepted students elect to pursue a gap year between high school graduation and college enrollment. Often, these decisions are made after receiving an admission decision or submitting a deposit to Marquette University. The following guidance is offered for students considering a gap year experience:

There is no formal deferment offered at Marquette. Rather, students opting to pursue a gap year will be considered for admission into the following spring or fall term on a competitive basis. Scholarship review is also conducted again on a competitive basis. For ease of understanding, the term deferment is used in this policy to represent a request for admission consideration for a future term. The admission decision and general scholarship award for a future term are typically the same or similar as the present term. It is possible an admission decision and/or scholarship award would change based on the deferred applicant class.

Applications may be deferred for up to one year. Students seeking longer gap years will need to apply for admission again.

General merit scholarships (Ignatius Scholarships) typically are maintained at the same level for the students deferred term. However, competitive awards requiring separate applications, scholarship competitions and some other awards cannot be deferred.

As the purpose of a gap year is to pursue other interests before entering college, students should be aware that earning college credit will often disallow a gap year.

Students will be required to provide a final high school and any college transcripts.

Students pursuing a gap year are encouraged to submit a written statement (admissions@marquette.edu) with their name, date of birth and reason for deferment.

Tuition and housing deposits are not refundable but may be applied toward the deferred term.

Students offered a space in the pre-law or pre-dental scholars programs, honors program, athletic training or physical therapy program (or other selective-entry programs) should consult with the admissions office for information about deferment. As selective entry programs, deferment is not always granted.

Marquette Statement on Course Selection

We recommend that applicants pursue a rigorous, college-preparatory curriculum throughout high school. At the same time, we recognize that many high schools offer courses designed to allow students to explore future career or study areas.

Marquette Statement on Recommendation Letters

To complete an application for admission students must include application part 2 (school counselor form). Students are welcome to submit a letter (or two) or recommendation with their application. No such letters are required for admission. We prefer that students save any such letters for scholarship applications (if necessary). Letters of recommendation seldom affect an admission decision but can be helpful to explicitly explain a grade that is out of character, dismissal from school, extended absence, etc. We encourage letter writers to be candid and honest in their recommendation as nearly all students waive their right of access to such letters. We also encourage conversation with your Marquette admission counselor or a senior staff member of the admissions staff; simply call us at 414/288-7302.

Marquette Statement on Academic Dismissal/Suspension

Students who have been dismissed from school for disciplinary reasons or suspended from school must disclose their dismissal or suspension on the application and must provide a statement about the dismissal/suspension which includes situational information as well as the length of dismissal/suspension and any remediation. Failure to include supporting information after checking the dismissal or suspension box will make the application incomplete.

Marquette Statement on Schedule Changes

Any schedule changes made after an application has been submitted should be communicated to the Marquette admissions office. Students may submit the change in writing to admissions@marquette.edu with their name and date of birth. The admission staff is also happy to discuss schedule changes and how changes may affect an admission decision. In general, only significant changes made to academic courses should be reported.

Marquette Test Score Policy

Only the highest composite score, and only the better of the ACT or SAT are used by the admission committee. We do not superscore exams. Students are encouraged to submit all scores to Marquette for review. We strongly recommend students present at least one ACT with a writing score. The writing score is treated independently from the ACT (we use the highest composite ACT and only the highest writing score).