

GIST's 2026 rolling admissions competition ratio is 15.49 to 1, with an interview-based selection process: The educational philosophy that transcends the burden on test takers has led to a 62% increase in applicants over the past five years

- 3,331 applicants applied for 215 spots in the 2026 academic year, marking a fifth consecutive year of increase... With no changes to the admissions system, applicants increased across all admissions channels, including general admissions, principal recommendation admissions, equal opportunity admissions, and special talent admissions

- Trust in the educational philosophy, including interviews with all applicants to directly assess creative thinking and academic aspirations and the introduction of a first-year "Challenge Exploration Process" to strengthen the foundation for exploration before choosing a major, has led to an increase in competition



▲ GIST's main gate, a new landmark that embodies GIST's identity and symbolism, was completed on the 22nd.

The Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology (GIST, President Kichul Lim), which is currently conducting rolling admissions for the 2026 academic year, announced on the 22nd that this year's rolling admissions recorded a competition rate of 15.49 to 1 (215 spots available, 3,331 applicants).

This represents a 12.8% increase (+377 applicants) compared to last year (215 spots available, 2,954 applications \Rightarrow 13.74 to 1), leading to an increase in the competition rate (13.74 to 1 \rightarrow 15.49 to 1).

Over the past five years, the number of applicants for rolling admissions has increased by 62.6%, from 2,048 in 2022 to 3,331 in 2026.

During the same period, the competition rate also showed an upward trend, from 11.38 to 1 in the 2022 school year to 15.49 to 1 in the 2026 school year.

구분	모집인원(정원 내)	지원자 수	경쟁률
2026학년도	215명	3,331명	15.49대 1
2025학년도	215명	2,954명	13.74대 1
2024학년도	215명	2,583명	12.01대 1
2023학년도	190명	2,623명	13.81대 1
2022학년도	180명	2,048명	11.38대 1

This year's rolling admissions competition rates for each admission type were: ▲ 22.6 to 1 for the Equal Opportunity Admission (15 spots available, 339 applicants); ▲ 17.5 to 1 for the Special Talent Admission (10 spots available, ▲ 175 applicants); ▲ 14.55 to 1 for the Principal's Recommendation Admission (40 spots available, 582 applicants); and ▲ 12.64 to 1 for the General Admissions Admission (150 spots available, 1,896 applicants). This represents an increase in competition rates across all admission types compared to last year.

A GIST admissions team representative explained, "The number of applicants has increased evenly without any significant changes to the admissions system, with the increase being particularly notable in the Principal's Recommendation Admission and General Admissions."

GIST, along with the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), Daegu Gyeongbuk Institute of Science and Technology (DGIST), Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology (UNIST), and Korea Institute of Energy Engineering (KENTECH), is a science and technology specialized university exempted from the six-round application limit under special law. This multiple-application policy is cited as a factor in the increased competition rate.

However, among the four major science and technology institutes, GIST is the only one that conducts interviews for all admissions processes. Despite the potential for interviews to be burdensome for applicants, the steady increase in GIST's applicants demonstrates growing trust and acceptance of GIST's educational philosophy of "interview-centered selection."

GIST avoids "numerical competition" based on grades and documentation, and instead directly assesses each applicant's creative thinking, logical expression, and academic aspirations through interviews.

Soo Jong Lee, Dean of Student Affairs and Admissions, said, "We are well aware that interviews can be a significant psychological burden for applicants. However, GIST seeks to directly witness students' open-mindedness and attitudes, and to identify their potential for growth beyond what is reflected in the numbers."

She added, "The increasing number of applicants who share this philosophy appears to have led to the increased competition."

Meanwhile, GIST reorganized its academic structure in February of this year, establishing the "Challenge Exploration Program" for first-year undergraduate students.

All incoming GIST students are enrolled as part of the Challenge Exploration Program, and explore basic sciences such as mathematics, computer programming, biology, physics, and chemistry; five required areas including ▲ language, ▲ software, ▲ arts, and ▲ physical education, and seminars; and elective areas in the humanities and social sciences such as philosophy, law, economics, history, and political science.

After entering their second year, students will finally choose their major through a "major declaration."

This reflects GIST's educational philosophy, which goes beyond simply fostering convergent talent. It expands science and technology as a "window" to view humanity, society, and the world, and fosters individuals who reflect on the direction of science and technology based on humanities and social sciences thinking and practice.

GIST plans to announce the successful applicants for the 2026 rolling admissions document screening on Thursday, October 23rd at 6:00 PM. Following the interview process (Thursday, October 30th - Friday, October 31st), the final selection will be announced on Friday, December 12th.

