

Supplemental Essay Prompts 2019–2020: The Master List

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Why are you interested in American University? (150 words)



**AMHERST
COLLEGE**

In addition to the essay you are writing as part of the Common Application, Amherst requires a supplementary writing sample from all applicants. There are three options for satisfying Amherst's supplementary writing requirement: Option A, Option B or Option C. You may select only one of these options. Before deciding, carefully read the descriptions of all three options.

Please respond to one of the following quotations in an essay of not more than 300 words. It is not necessary to research, read, or refer to the texts from which these quotations are taken; we are looking for original, personal responses to these short excerpts. Remember that your essay should be personal in nature and not simply an argumentative essay.

“Rigorous reasoning is crucial in mathematics, and insight plays an important secondary role these days. In the natural sciences, I would say that the order of these two virtues is reversed. Rigor is, of course, very important. But the most important value is insight—insight into the workings of the world. It may be because there is another guarantor of correctness in the sciences, namely, the empirical evidence from observation and experiments.”

Kannan Jagannathan

Professor of Physics, Amherst College

“Translation is the art of bridging cultures. It’s about interpreting the essence of a text, transporting its rhythms and becoming intimate with its meaning... Translation, however, doesn’t only occur across languages: mentally putting any idea into words is an act of translation; so is composing a symphony, doing business in the global market, understanding the roots of terrorism. No citizen, especially today, can exist in isolation—that is, untranslated.”

Ilan Stavans

Professor of Latin American and Latino Culture, Amherst College

Robert Croll ‘16 and Cedric Duquene ‘15

“Interpreting Terras Irradiant,” Amherst Magazine, Spring 2015.

“Creating an environment that allows students to build lasting friendships, including those that cut across seemingly entrenched societal and political boundaries... requires candor about the inevitable tensions, as well as about the wonderful opportunities, that diversity and inclusiveness create.”

Carolyn “Biddy” Martin

President of Amherst College, Letter to Amherst College Alumni and Families, December 28, 2015.

“Difficulty need not foreshadow despair or defeat. Rather achievement can be all the more satisfying because of obstacles surmounted.”

William Hastie

Amherst Class of 1925, the first African-American to serve as a judge for the United States Court of Appeals

Please submit a graded paper from your junior or senior year that best represents your writing skills and analytical abilities. We are particularly interested in your ability to construct a tightly reasoned, persuasive argument that calls upon literary, sociological or historical evidence. You should NOT submit a laboratory report, journal entry, creative writing sample or in-class essay. If you have submitted an analytical essay in response to the “essay topic of your choice” prompt in the Common Application writing section, you should NOT select Option B. Instead, you should respond to one of the four quotation prompts in Option A.

If you were an applicant to Amherst’s Diversity Open House (DVOH) weekend program, you may use your DVOH application essay in satisfaction of our Writing Supplement requirement. If you would like to do so, please select Option C. However, if you would prefer not to use your DVOH essay for this purpose and you want to submit a different writing supplement, select either Option A or Option B. [Please note that Option C is available only to students who were applicants to Amherst’s DVOH program.]



**BABSON
COLLEGE**

Your moment has arrived. Share with us the moments or experiences that have led you to apply to Babson College. (500 words maximum)

We invite you to submit your answer in either essay OR video format. If you choose to submit a video, please limit your response to a 1-minute video, which can be submitted via a shared link to YouTube or another video hosting website.



BARNARD COLLEGE

What factors influenced your decision to apply to Barnard College and why do you think the College would be a good match for you? (100-250 words)

Pick one woman in history or fiction to converse with for an hour and explain your choice. What would you talk about? (100-250 words)



BATES COLLEGE

No writing supplement



BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

What are you looking for in a university, why do you want to attend Baylor, and how do you see yourself contributing to the Baylor community? (750 words)



BOSTON COLLEGE

We would like to get a better sense of you. Please respond to one of the following prompts. (400 words)

Great art evokes a sense of wonder. It nourishes the mind and spirit. Is there a particular song, poem, speech, or novel from which you have drawn insight or inspiration?

When you choose a college, you will join a new community of people who have different backgrounds, experiences, and stories. What is it about your background, your experiences, or your story, that will enrich Boston College's community?



Boston College strives to provide an undergraduate learning experience emphasizing the liberal arts, quality teaching, personal formation, and engagement of critical issues. If you had the opportunity to create your own college course, what enduring question or contemporary problem would you address and why?

Jesuit education considers the liberal arts a pathway to intellectual growth and character formation. What beliefs and values inform your decisions and actions today, and how will Boston College assist you in becoming a person who thinks and acts for the common good?



BOSTON UNIVERSITY

What about being a student at Boston University most excites you? (250 words)



BOWDOIN COLLEGE

Generations of students have found connection and meaning in Bowdoin’s “The Offer of the College,” written in 1906 by Bowdoin President William DeWitt Hyde.

To be at home in all lands and all ages;
 to count Nature a familiar acquaintance,
 and Art an intimate friend;
 to gain a standard for the appreciation of others’ work
 and the criticism of your own;
 to carry the keys of the world’s library in your pocket,
 and feel its resources behind you in whatever task you undertake;
 to make hosts of friends...who are to be leaders in all walks of life;
 to lose yourself in generous enthusiasms and cooperate with others for common ends –
 this is the offer of the college for the best four years of your life.

Which line from the Offer resonates most with you?

Optional: The Offer represents Bowdoin’s values. Please reflect on the line you selected and how it has meaning to you. (250 words)



BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY

Please include a short response to one of the three prompts below: (250 words)

Why would you like to attend Brandeis?

Justice Brandeis said, “Most of the things worth doing in the world had been declared impossible before they were done.” Tell us how you would implement change in society that others might think impossible.

What is something you have recently changed your mind about and why?

Brandeis attracts students from many corners of the world. As an international student at Brandeis, how would you enrich the campus community? (250 words or fewer)



BROWN UNIVERSITY

First Year applicants to Brown are asked to answer three supplemental essay questions, which are provided below if you would like to begin work on your essays now.

Brown’s Open Curriculum allows students to explore broadly while also diving deeply into their academic pursuits. Tell us about an academic interest (or interests) that excites you, and how you might use the Open Curriculum to pursue it. (250 words)

At Brown, you will learn as much from your peers outside the classroom as in academic spaces. How will you contribute to the Brown community? (250 words)

Tell us about a place or community you call home. How has it shaped your perspective? (250 words)

If you are applying to the eight-year Program in Liberal Medical Education (PLME) or the five-year Brown-Rhode Island School of Design Dual Degree Program (BRDD), you must complete the special program essays.

Three essays are required for applicants to the PLME:

Committing to a future career as a physician while in high school requires careful consideration and self-reflection. What values and experiences have led you to believe that becoming a doctor in medicine is the right fit for you? (250 word limit)



Most people describe a career as a physician/doctor as a “profession”, beyond a job. Describe for us what “professionalism” and “the profession of a physician/doctor” mean to you. (250 word limit)

How do you envision the Program in Liberal Medical Education (PLME) helping you to meet your academic personal and professional goals as a person and as a physician of the future? (500 word limit)

One essay is required for applicants to the Brown|RISD Dual Degree Program:

The Brown|RISD A.B./B.F.A. Dual Degree Program provides an opportunity to explore your interests and prepare for the future in two distinct learning environments. Considering your understanding of both academic programs, describe how and why the specific combination of the art/design-focused curriculum of RISD and the wide-ranging courses and curricula of Brown could constitute an optimal undergraduate education for you. (650 word limit)



BRYN MAWR COLLEGE

First Year applicants to Brown are asked to answer three supplemental essay questions, which are provided below if you would like to begin work on your essays now.

Brown’s Open Curriculum allows students to explore broadly while also diving deeply into their academic pursuits. Tell us about an academic interest (or interests) that excites you, and how you might use the Open Curriculum to pursue it. (250 words)

At Brown, you will learn as much from your peers outside the classroom as in academic spaces. How will you contribute to the Brown community? (250 words)



BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY

Please explain your interest in your first-choice major/undecided status and your second-choice major, should you opt to list one (250 words)



CARLETON COLLEGE

When did you first learn of Carleton? (no more than 150 words)

Why are you applying to Carleton? (no more than 150 words)



CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

All of the questions are required:

Describe three experiences and/or activities that have helped develop your passion for a possible career in a STEM field. (10-120 words.)

Much like the life of a professional scientist or engineer, the life of a “Techer” relies heavily on collaboration. Knowing this, what do you hope to explore, innovate, or create with your Caltech peers? (250-400 words.)

Caltech students are often known for their sense of humor and creative pranks. What do you like to do for fun? (250-400 words.)

The process of discovery best advances when people from various backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives come together. How do you see yourself contributing to the diversity of Caltech’s community? (Your response should range between 250-400 words.)



CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

Please answer all of the following questions; each answer should be no more than 300 words.

Most students choose their intended major or area of study based on a passion or inspiration that’s developed over time – what passion or inspiration led you to choose this area of study?

Many students pursue college for a specific degree, career opportunity or personal goal.



Whichever it may be, learning will be critical to achieve your ultimate goal. As you think ahead to the process of learning during your college years, how will you define a successful college experience?

Consider your application as a whole. What do you personally want to emphasize about your application for the admission committee's consideration? Highlight something that's important to you or something you haven't had a chance to share. Tell us, don't show us (no websites please).



CLAREMONT MCKENNA COLLEGE

Why do you want to attend CMC? (250 words)

What is intellectual courage? (250 words)



CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

No writing supplements



CENTRE COLLEGE

No writing supplement



CLARK UNIVERSITY

Clarkies take great pride in the warmth and authenticity of the Clark community and community plays a central role in the Clark experience. For us a community is more than a place to live and learn. Where do you see yourself spending time outside of class as a college student at Clark? (300 words)

Please briefly elaborate on one of your extracurricular activities or work experiences. (250 words)



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

In 150 words or fewer, please list a few words or phrases that describe your ideal college community.

For the four list questions that follow, we ask that you list each individual response using commas or semicolons; the items do not have to be numbered or in any specific order. No narrative or explanatory text is needed. It is not necessary to italicize or underline titles of books or other publications. Author names may be included, but are not required. You do not need to fill the entire space or use the maximum number of words; there is no minimum word count in this section, so please respond to the extent that you feel is appropriate.

Please list the following (150 words or fewer for each question):

The titles of the required readings from courses during the school year or summer that you enjoyed most in the past year

The titles of books read for pleasure that you enjoyed most in the past year

The titles of print or electronic publications you read regularly

The titles of the films, concerts, shows, exhibits, lectures and other entertainments you enjoyed most in the past year.

Please answer the following short answer questions (300 words or fewer for each question):

Please tell us what you value most about Columbia and why.



If you are applying to Columbia College, tell us what from your current and past experiences (either academic or personal) attracts you specifically to the field or fields of study that you noted in the Member Questions section. If you are currently undecided, please write about any field or fields in which you may have an interest at this time.

If you are applying to The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science, please tell us what from your current and past experiences (either academic or personal) attracts you specifically to the field or fields of study that you noted in the Member Questions section.



COLBY COLLEGE

No writing supplement



COLGATE UNIVERSITY

At Colgate, we believe that a diverse community is a strong community. Reflect on an experience that demonstrates your commitment to inclusion and diversity. (260 words)

With over 500 liberal arts and sciences colleges in the United States, what inspired you to apply to Colgate? (260 words)



COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS

No writing supplement



COLORADO COLLEGE

Why do you wish to attend Colorado College and how would you contribute to the community? (no more than 250 words)

The Block Plan at Colorado College has a tradition of innovation and flexibility. Please design your own three-and-a-half week course and describe what you would do. (no more than 500 words)



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

No writing supplement



CORNELL UNIVERSITY

In the online Common Application Writing Supplement, please respond to the essay question below (maximum of 650 words) that corresponds to the undergraduate college or school to which you are applying.

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences: Why are you drawn to studying the major you have selected? Please discuss how your interests and related experiences have influenced your choice. Specifically, how will an education from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) and Cornell University help you achieve your academic goals?

College of Architecture, Art, and Planning: What is your “thing”? What energizes you or engages you so deeply that you lose track of time? Everyone has different passions, obsessions, quirks, inspirations. What are yours?”

College of Arts and Sciences: Students in Arts and Sciences embrace the opportunity to delve into their academic interests, discover new realms of intellectual inquiry, and chart their own path through the College. Tell us why the depth, breadth, and flexibility of our curriculum are ideally suited to exploring the areas of study that excite you.



Cornell SC Johnson College of Business: Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management: Affiliated with both the Cornell SC Johnson College of Business and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, The Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management is unique by design. Explain how our approach to business education is the right fit for you, and how your interests, experiences or goals will contribute to the unique composition of the entering class.

Cornell SC Johnson College of Business: School of Hotel Administration (SHA): The global hospitality industry includes hotel and foodservice management, real estate, finance, entrepreneurship, marketing, technology, and law. Describe what has influenced your decision to study business through the lens of hospitality. What personal qualities make you a good fit for SHA?

College of Engineering: Cornell Engineering celebrates innovative problem-solving that helps people, communities...the world. Consider your ideas and aspirations and describe how a Cornell Engineering education would allow you to leverage technological problem-solving to improve the world we live in.

College of Human Ecology: How have your experiences influenced your decision to apply to the College of Human Ecology? How will your choice of major impact your goals and plans for the future?

School of Industrial and Labor Relations: Tell us about your intellectual interests, how they sprung from your course, service, work or life experiences, and what makes them exciting to you. Describe how ILR is the right school for you to pursue these interests



**DARTMOUTH
COLLEGE**

Please respond in 100 words or fewer:

While arguing a Dartmouth-related case before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1818, Daniel Webster, Class of 1801, delivered this memorable line: “It is, Sir...a small college. And yet, there are those who love it!” As you seek admission to the Class of 2024, what aspects of the College’s program, community or campus environment attract your interest?

Please choose one of the following prompts and respond in 250-300 words:

The Hawaiian word mo’olelo is often translated as “story” but it can also refer to history, legend, genealogy, and tradition. Use one of these translations to introduce yourself.



In the aftermath of World War II, Dartmouth President John Sloane Dickey, Class of 1929, proclaimed, “The world’s troubles are your troubles...and there is nothing wrong with the world that better human beings cannot fix.” Which of the world’s “troubles” inspires you to act? How might your course of study at Dartmouth prepare you to address it?

In *The Painted Drum*, author Louise Erdrich ‘76 wrote, “... what is beautiful that I make? What is elegant? What feeds the world?” Tell us about something beautiful you have made or hope to make.

“Yes, books are dangerous,” young people’s novelist Pete Hautman proclaimed. “They should be dangerous—they contain ideas.” What book or story captured your imagination through the ideas it revealed to you? Share how those ideas influenced you.

“I have no special talent,” Albert Einstein once observed. “I am only passionately curious.” Celebrate your curiosity.

Labor leader Dolores Huerta is a civil rights activist who co-founded the organization now known as United Farm Workers. She said, “We criticize and separate ourselves from the process. We’ve got to jump right in there with both feet.” Speak your truth: Talk about a time when your passion became action.



DAVIDSON COLLEGE

Why Davidson? (250-300 words)

List the books you have read in the past year for school or leisure. Place an asterisk by those books required for classes you have taken.

Please briefly elaborate on one of your extracurricular activities or work experiences. (200 words)



DENISON UNIVERSITY

No writing supplement



DICKINSON COLLEGE

No writing supplement



EMERSON COLLEGE

Prompts not yet released - will update when posted



EMORY UNIVERSITY

In addition to your Personal Statement, please answer two (2) of the prompts below. Choose one prompt from the “Reflections” category and one prompt from the “Tell us about you” category.

We encourage you to be thoughtful and not stress about what the right answer might be. We simply want to get to know you better. Each response should be no more than 150 words.

“Reflections” Category: Respond to one of the following.

Share about something you want to bring from your community to the Emory University community.

Share about a time when you questioned something that you believed to be true.

Emory University’s shield is a crossed torch and trumpet representing the light of learning and the proclamation of knowledge. It symbolizes our mission to impact the world through discovery. What truth or knowledge do you want to see shared?

“Tell us about you” Category: Respond to one of the following.

Which book, character, song, or piece of work (fiction or nonfiction) represents you, and why?



If you could witness a historic event first-hand, what would it be, and why?

If asked to write a 150-word tweet to tell the world who you are, what would you say? (Yes, the actual Twitter character limit would likely be shorter than 150 words, but thanks for indulging us.)



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

No writing supplement



GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

For the 2020 Application, we have decided to ask only one additional prompt. We hope that will save you just a bit of time as you work through our application.

Why do you want to study your chosen major at Georgia Tech, and how do you think Georgia Tech will prepare you to pursue opportunities in that field after graduation? (max 250 words)



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Indicate any special talents or skills you possess (250 words).

Briefly (approximately one-half page, single-spaced) discuss the significance to you of the school or summer activity in which you have been most involved.

Compose two brief, typewritten essays (approximately one page, single-spaced each) on the topics given below. Please use the upload options below to submit your essays.



Essay One

All applicants: As Georgetown is a diverse community, the Admissions Committee would like to know more about you in your own words. Please submit a brief essay, either personal or creative, which you feel best describes you.

Essay Two

Applicants to Georgetown College: What does it mean to you to be educated? How might Georgetown College help you achieve this aim? (Applicants to the Sciences and Mathematics or the Faculty of Languages and Linguistics should address their chosen course of study).

Applicants to the School of Nursing & Health Studies: Describe the factors that have influenced your interest in studying health care at Georgetown University. Please specifically address your intended major (Health Care Management & Policy, Human Science, Global Health, or Nursing).

Applicants to the Walsh School of Foreign Service: Briefly discuss a current global issue, indicating why you consider it important and what you suggest should be done to deal with it.

Applicants to the McDonough School of Business: The McDonough School of Business is a national and global leader in providing graduates with essential ethical, analytical, financial and global perspectives. Please discuss your motivations for studying business at Georgetown.



GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Prompts not yet released - will update when posted



GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

No writing supplement



**GRINNELL
COLLEGE**

No writing supplement



**HAMILTON
COLLEGE**

No writing supplement



**HARVARD
UNIVERSITY**

You may wish to include an additional essay if you feel that the college application forms do not provide sufficient opportunity to convey important information about yourself or your accomplishments. You may write on a topic of your choice, or you may choose from one of the following topics (No word limit; max file size is 2000 KB):

Unusual circumstances in your life

Travel, living, or working experiences in your own or other communities

What you would want your future college roommate to know about you

An intellectual experience (course, project, book, discussion, paper, poetry, or research topic in engineering, mathematics, science or other modes of inquiry) that has meant the most to you

How you hope to use your college education

A list of books you have read during the past twelve months

The Harvard College Honor code declares that we “hold honesty as the foundation of our community.” As you consider entering this community that is committed to honesty, please reflect on a time when you or someone you observed had to make a choice about whether to act with integrity and honesty.



The mission of Harvard College is to educate our students to be citizens and citizen-leaders for society. What would you do to contribute to the lives of your classmates in advancing this mission?

Each year a substantial number of students admitted to Harvard defer their admission for one year or take time off during college. If you decided in the future to choose either option, what would you like to do?

Harvard has long recognized the importance of student body diversity of all kinds. We welcome you to write about distinctive aspects of your background, personal development or the intellectual interests you might bring to your Harvard classmates.

Your intellectual life may extend beyond the academic requirements of your particular school. Please use the space below to list additional intellectual activities that you have not mentioned or detailed elsewhere in your application. These could include, but are not limited to, supervised or self-directed projects not done as school work, training experiences, online courses not run by your school, or summer academic or research programs not described elsewhere. (150 words)

Please briefly elaborate on one of your extracurricular activities or work experiences. (150 words)



**HARVEY MUDD
COLLEGE**

What influenced you to apply to Harvey Mudd College? What about the HMC curriculum and community appeals to you? (500 words)

Please select one of the three prompts to answer. (500 words)

Many students choose HMC because they don't want to give up their interests in the Humanities, Social Sciences and the Arts – or HSA as we call it at HMC. Tell us about your dream HSA class. Your answer might (but doesn't have to) include projects you could do, texts you might want to read, or topics you would want to explore.

“Scientific research is a human endeavor. The choices of topics that we research are based on our biases, our beliefs, and what we bring: our cultures and our families. The kinds of problems that people put their talents to solving depends on their values.” - Dr. Clifton Poodry - How has your own background influenced the types of problems you want to solve?

Who in your life is depending on you? For what are they depending on you for?



What is one thing we won't know about you after reading your application?

Optional: You may include examples of mathematical or scientific endeavors or research abstracts if relevant. Please limit your submission to two pages. Hint: A .pdf file under 500 KB in size will be accepted



HAVERFORD COLLEGE

Please give us a better sense of what you are looking for in your college experience by answering the following questions:

Tell us about a topic or issue that sparks your curiosity and gets you intellectually excited. How do you think the environment at Haverford, including the framework of the Honor Code, would foster your continued intellectual growth? (250 words)

Please tell us what motivated you to apply to Haverford and what excites you most as you imagine your Haverford experience. (150 words)



ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Why are you interested in Illinois Institute of Technology? (250 words or less)

Tell us why you are pursuing your selected major. If you are undecided on a major tell us about the academic areas of interest to you. (250 words)



INDIANA UNIVERSITY – BLOOMINGTON

Describe your academic and career plans and any special interest (for example, undergraduate research, academic interests, leadership opportunities, etc.) that you are eager to pursue as an undergraduate at Indiana University. Also, if you encountered any unusual circumstances, challenges, or obstacles in pursuit of your education, share those experiences and how you overcame them. (200-400 words)



JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Write a brief essay (300-400 words) in which you respond to the following question.

Successful students at Johns Hopkins make the biggest impact by collaborating with others, including peers, mentors, and professors. Talk about a time, in or outside the classroom, when you worked with others and what you learned from the experience.
(300-400 word limit)



KENYON COLLEGE

No writing supplement



LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

Students identify Lafayette as an excellent fit for countless reasons. In your response, be deliberate and specific about your motivation for applying to Lafayette.

Why Lafayette? (20-200 words)



LEHIGH UNIVERSITY

How did you first learn about Lehigh University and what motivated you to apply? (150 words)

Your time at Lehigh will be shaped in large part by others. What personal perspective will you contribute based on your unique interests, experiences, and background? (250 words)



LEWIS & CLARK COLLEGE

Lewis & Clark College is a private college with a public conscience and a global reach. We celebrate our strengths in collaborative scholarship, international engagement, environmental understanding and entrepreneurial thinking. As we evaluate applications, we look for students who understand what we offer and are eager to contribute to our community. In one paragraph, please tell us why you are interested in attending Lewis & Clark and how you will impact our campus. (50-500 words)



LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

Please read the three statements, which all relate to the mission and the values of Loyola Marymount University. Choose the one you find most interesting and thought provoking; then, answer the question which accompanies the statement you select. This essay, usually around 500 words, is your chance to display your critical and creative thinking.

Prompt 1

In Pope Francis' 2015 address to a joint session of the U.S. Congress, he said: "Let us remember the Golden Rule: 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.' (Mt 7:12) This Rule points us in a clear direction. Let us treat others with the same passion and compassion with which we want to be treated. Let us seek for others the same possibilities which we seek for ourselves. Let us help others to grow, as we would like to be helped ourselves."

While Pope Francis was speaking to elected leaders when he made these remarks, he was reminding all leaders of our obligations to each other. How do leaders and decision makers in any organization keep the Golden Rule in mind while striving for distinction and success?

Speaking about education, Dr. Martin Luther King once said, "The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character, that is the goal of true education."

Critical thinking is a central goal of Jesuit education, and at LMU you'll be asked to think critically and intensively in every class. Dr. King suggests that critical thinking results in our ability to inform intelligence with character, and strengthen character with intelligence. Please talk about a situation that demanded critical thinking from you, and how your choices or decisions integrated intelligence and character.



A motto often associated with Jesuit and Marymount schools is “Educating men and women for others.” Fr. Pedro Arrupe, the former head of the Jesuits, once said that “our prime educational objective must be to form men and women for others, who believe that a love of self or of God which does not issue forth in justice for the least of their neighbors is a farce.”

What do you think Fr. Arrupe meant when he said this? Please give an example of someone you know, other than your teachers and parents, who works for justice for the least of their neighbors.



MACALESTER COLLEGE

Macalester is one of few highly selective liberal arts colleges located in the middle of a metropolitan area. Students benefit from the strong sense of community on campus and opportunities to engage in academic, social, and civic engagement options in the Twin Cities. Have you thought about how Macalester’s location might impact your experience? If so, in what ways? (500 words)



MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

We know you lead a busy life, full of activities, many of which are required of you. Tell us about something you do simply for the pleasure of it. (100 words or fewer)

Although you may not yet know what you want to major in, which department or program at MIT appeals to you and why? (100 words or fewer)

At MIT, we bring people together to better the lives of others. MIT students work to improve their communities in different ways, from tackling the world’s biggest challenges to being a good friend. Describe one way in which you have contributed to your community, whether in your family, the classroom, your neighborhood, etc. (200-250 words)

Describe the world you come from; for example, your family, clubs, school, community, city, or town. How has that world shaped your dreams and aspirations? (200-250 words)

Tell us about the most significant challenge you’ve faced or something important that didn’t go according to plan. How did you manage the situation? (200-250 words)



There is also one final, open-ended additional information text box, where you can tell us anything else you think we really ought to know.

Activities

Please use our form, not a resume, to list your activities. There is only enough space to list four things—please choose the four that mean the most to you and tell us a bit about them. This will tell us more about you than any “laundry list” of everything you’ve ever done in high school.



**MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY**

No writing supplement



**MIDDLEBURY
COLLEGE**

No writing supplement



**MOUNT HOLYOKE
COLLEGE**

Prompts not yet released - will update when posted



**THE NEW
SCHOOL**

Prompts not yet released - will update when posted



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

We would like to know more about your interest in NYU. What motivated you to apply to NYU? Why have you applied or expressed interest in a particular campus, school, college, program, and or area of study? If you have applied to more than one, please also tell us why you are interested in these additional areas of study or campuses. We want to understand - Why NYU? (400 words)



NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY – RALEIGH

Discuss any obstacles and/or hardships you have encountered and how you dealt with them. (250 words)

NC State is a community that is strong because of the diversity of our perspectives and experiences. Please describe how you could contribute to or benefit from campus diversity. (250 words)



NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

No writing supplement



NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Please briefly elaborate on one of your extracurricular activities or work experiences. (250 words)



Other parts of your application give us a sense for how you might contribute to Northwestern. But we also want to consider how Northwestern will contribute to your interests and goals. In 300 words or less, help us understand what aspects of Northwestern appeal most to you, and how you'll make use of specific resources and opportunities here.



OBERLIN COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

No writing supplements



OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE

Why are you applying to Occidental? What are your intellectual curiosities and why do you think Occidental is the right place for you to pursue them? (200 words)

Oxy's central mission emphasizes the value of community amidst diversity. What do you value in a community and how do you see your perspectives and life experiences enhancing it? (200 words)

Quirks, idiosyncrasies, peculiarities. They help differentiate us. What is one of yours? (133 words)

What is your favorite word (in English or another language) Why? (25 words)

What is the first song you would play for your roommates on move-in day? (150 characters)

If you had your own food truck or restaurant, what would it be called? (150 characters)



OHIO STATE

No supplements for applicants. However, students applying to University Honors or Ohio State Scholars must also respond to this prompt:

To what fictional character do you most relate, and why? You may select a character from animation, art, film, literature, television, theater or any other medium.



OHIO UNIVERSITY

Optional Essay

This essay is optional. You may use this space to describe any academic challenges you have faced, your preparation for success in your academic and career objectives, or any additional information that you would like to have associated with your application. Recommended essay length: 250-500 words.



PENN STATE

Personal Statement (Optional)

Please tell us something about yourself, your experiences, or activities that you believe would reflect positively on your ability to succeed at Penn State. This is your opportunity to tell us something about yourself that is not already reflected in your application or academic records. We suggest a limit of 500 words or fewer.



PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY

Pepperdine is a Christian university where all are welcomed and encouraged to challenge each other in the pursuit of truth. Students, faculty, and staff members from all backgrounds participate in conversations of faith inside and outside of the classroom. Considering that Pepperdine is a Christian university, why are you interested in attending and how would you contribute to conversations of faith on campus? (500 words)



PITZER COLLEGE

At Pitzer College, five core values distinguish our approach to education: social responsibility, intercultural understanding, interdisciplinary learning, student engagement, and environmental sustainability. As agents of change, our students utilize these values to create solutions to our world's challenges. Find out more about our core values. Please choose from the following prompts and answer below: (650 words)

Describe what you are looking for from your college experience and why Pitzer would be a good fit for you.

Reflecting on your involvement throughout high school or within the community, how have you engaged with one of Pitzer's core values?

Pitzer is known for our students' intellectual and creative activism. If you could work on a cause that is meaningful to you through a project, artistic, academic, or otherwise, what would you do?



POMONA COLLEGE

Pomona College requires two short essays (200-250 words each) to complete your application. Please choose two of the three essay prompts for your responses.

Imagine having a 1 a.m. debate/discussion with your peers in college about an issue you care about. What is that issue, and what is the discussion?

Share your favorite quote, and tell us what it means to you. The quote can be from an author, leader, musical artist, family member or other source—famous or not. (Your response should be 200-250 words not including your quote.)

We want to understand you better! Tell us about a skill you have (useless or useful) and what it says about you.



PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Activities

Please briefly elaborate on one of your extracurricular activities or work experiences that was particularly meaningful to you. (Response required in about 150 words.)

Summers

Please tell us how you have spent the last two summers (or vacations between school years), including any jobs you have held. (Response required in about 150 words.)

A Few Details

Your favorite book and its author

Your favorite website

Your favorite recording

Your favorite source of inspiration

Your favorite line from a movie or book and its title

Your favorite movie

Two adjectives your friends would use to describe you

Your favorite keepsake or memento

Your favorite word

Essay: Your Voice

In addition to the essay you have written for the Coalition Application, the Common Application or the Universal College Application, please write an essay of about 500 words (no more than 650 words and no fewer than 250 words). Using one of the themes below as a starting point, write about a person, event or experience that helped you define one of your values or in some way changed how you approach the world. Please do not repeat, in full or in part, the essay you wrote for the Coalition Application, the Common Application or Universal College Application.

Tell us about a person who has influenced you in a significant way.

“One of the great challenges of our time is that the disparities we face today have more complex causes and point less straightforwardly to solutions.” Omar Wasow, assistant professor of politics, Princeton University. This quote is taken from Professor Wasow’s January 2014 speech at the Martin Luther King Day celebration at Princeton University.

“Culture is what presents us with the kinds of valuable things that can fill a life. And insofar as we can recognize the value in those things and make them part of our lives, our lives



are meaningful.” Gideon Rosen, Stuart Professor of Philosophy and chair, Department of Philosophy, Princeton University.

Using a favorite quotation from an essay or book you have read in the last three years as a starting point, tell us about an event or experience that helped you define one of your values or changed how you approach the world. Please write the quotation, title and author at the beginning of your essay.

Engineering Essay*

If you are interested in pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree, please write a 300-500 word essay describing why you are interested in studying engineering, any experiences in or exposure to engineering you have had and how you think the programs in engineering offered at Princeton suit your particular interests.

*This essay is required for students who indicate Bachelor of Science in Engineering as a possible degree of study on their application.



**PURDUE
UNIVERSITY**

How will opportunities at Purdue support your interests, both in and out of the classroom? (Respond in 100 words or fewer.)

Briefly discuss your reasons for pursuing the major you have selected. (Respond in 100 words or fewer.)

Please briefly elaborate on one of your extracurricular activities or work experiences. (250 words)



**RENSSELAER
POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE**

Prompts not yet released - will update when posted



RICE UNIVERSITY

All Applicants

The Committee of Admission is interested in getting to know each student as well as possible through the application process. Please respond to each of the following prompts.

There is a breadth of intellectual opportunities here at Rice. Further explain your intended major and other areas of academic focus you may explore. (150 word limit)

What aspects of the Rice undergraduate experience excite you and led you to apply? (150 word limit)

In keeping with Rice's long-standing tradition (known as "The Box"), please share an image of something that appeals to you. See the Help Section for more information.

School of Architecture:

What aspirations, experiences, or relationships have motivated you to pursue the study of architecture? (250 word limit)

Outside of academics, what do you enjoy most or find especially challenging? (250 word limit)

School of Engineering, School of Humanities, School of Music, School of Natural Sciences, School of Social Sciences:

Rice is lauded for creating a collaborative atmosphere that enhances the quality of life for all members of our campus community. The Residential College System is heavily influenced by the unique life experiences and cultural traditions each student brings. What personal perspectives would you contribute to life at Rice? (500 words)



RHODES COLLEGE

No writing supplement



RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

Rutgers requires that you provide a short essay of your original work. Please address one of the following topics or submit an essay on a topic of your choice. (3800 characters including spaces)

Tell a story from your life, describing an experience that either demonstrates your character or helped to shape it.

Describe a time you made a meaningful contribution to others in which the greater good was your focus. Discuss the challenges and rewards of making your contribution. Has there been a time when you've had a long-cherished or accepted belief challenged? How did you respond? How did the challenge affect your beliefs?

What is the hardest part of being a teenager now? What's the best part? What advice would you give a younger sibling or friend (assuming they would listen to you)?

Submit an essay on the topic of your choice.



SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

Briefly describe what prompted you to apply to Santa Clara University. If you have had the opportunity to visit campus, please describe what aspect of your experience most influenced your impression of SCU. (200 words)

Driven by the Jesuit values outlined in our mission statement, Santa Clara University promises to educate citizens and leaders of competence, conscience, and compassion. We strive to cultivate knowledge and faith to build a more humane, just, and sustainable world. Write about an experience from your life that embodies an aspect of our mission. (150 - 300 words)



SARAH LAWRENCE COLLEGE

Optional: We know that there may be elements of who you are as a person and student that you may not feel are conveyed fully in the other sections of this application. If you wish to showcase a little more about your particular interest in Sarah Lawrence College, please respond to one of the prompts below.

One of the cornerstones of a Sarah Lawrence education is student-driven research or creative work, undertaken with the mentorship of faculty that extends or expands the scope of the subject of a particular seminar course. In 250-500 words, tell us about an independent research project or creative work that you would like to design as part of your academic experience.

Sarah Lawrence’s educational model was founded largely on the notion that learning should be put to use for the benefit of a complex and interconnected society, and that approach to education has long valued the importance of diversity and inclusivity. In 250-500 words, tell us how you define diversity and inclusion, and what role you hope it will play in your college years (or beyond).

Sarah Lawrence’s cross-disciplinary and self-directed program attracts students who want to delve deeply into intellectual and/or creative passions in ways that conventional academic structures may limit. In 250-500 words, tell us what aspects of your own goals, interests, or even personality led you to apply to Sarah Lawrence College and that make you a good “fit” with SLC.



SCRIPPS COLLEGE

Why have you chosen to apply to Scripps College? (200 words)

Choose one of the following (150-300 words):

If you could trade lives with someone (fictional or real) for a day, who would it be and why?

You’ve invented a time machine in your living room – well done! When and where is your first destination and why?

You have just been invited to give a TED talk. What will you talk about and why did you select that topic?



SOKA UNIVERSITY

During January block, Soka students participate in a Learning Cluster or research seminar where students work in teams with faculty to propose, research, and model constructive approaches to local, regional and/or global issues. What question would you investigate during a Learning Cluster? Describe why this topic is one you are passionate about and how you envision solving or supporting this particular issue? (500-750 words)

In today's world, what is your purpose in seeking a liberal arts education? Among the many fine colleges and universities you might attend, how do you think SUA could help you fulfill that purpose? (500-750 words)



SEWANEE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH

No writing supplements



SKIDMORE COLLEGE

No writing supplements



SMITH COLLEGE

We know that colleges ask a lot of hard questions on their applications. This one is not so hard and we promise, there is no hidden agenda - just have fun! If you had a theme song - a piece of music that describes you, what would it be and why? Please include the name of the song and the artist. (200 words)



ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

St. John's would like to learn more about you than grades and test scores alone can reveal. The following essay topic, with a word minimum instead of a word maximum, is designed to give you an opportunity to write fully and freely to the Admissions Committee.

Discuss a book that has particular significance for you. What makes this book great in your view? What effect does it have on what you think or how you think? (400 words)

What about St. John's interests you most? (200 words)

Share with us any aspect of your personal or family story relevant to understanding who you are today or who you want to be in the future. (200 words)

Do you have any questions about the college or your application? (200 words)



ST. OLAF COLLEGE

How are you and St. Olaf a good fit for each other? (100 words)

Everyone knows that I... (10 words)

No one knows that I... (10 words)

St. Olaf should know that I... (10 words)



ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY

No writing supplements



STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Short answer questions:

What is the most significant challenge that society faces today? (50 word limit)

How did you spend your last two summers? (50 word limit)

What historical moment or event do you wish you could have witnessed? (50 word limit)

What five words best describe you?

When the choice is yours, what do you read, listen to, or watch? (50 word limit)

Name one thing you are looking forward to experiencing at Stanford.

Imagine you had an extra hour in the day – how would you spend that time? (50 word limit)

We ask applicants to write a short essay on each of the following three topics. There is a 100-word minimum and a 250-word maximum for each essay.

The Stanford community is deeply curious and driven to learn in and out of the classroom. Reflect on an idea or experience that makes you genuinely excited about learning.

Virtually all of Stanford's undergraduates live on campus. Write a note to your future roommate that reveals something about you or that will help your roommate—and us—get to know you better.

Tell us about something that is meaningful to you, and why?



SUNY BINGHAMTON

No writing supplements



SUNY – COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND FORESTRY

The ESF Admissions Committee would like to understand your interest in the college and our programs of study. Please explain why you have chosen the SUNY-ESF majors you selected in the Academic section of this screen and how each would fulfill your educational and career goals? If you selected 'Undeclared' as one of your choices, please tell us which majors you are considering and how they will fulfill your educational and career goals. (500 words)



SUNY STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Please briefly elaborate on one of your extracurricular activities or work experiences. (250 words)



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

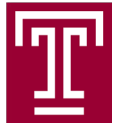
Who or what influenced you to apply to Syracuse University? (250 words)

Who is the person you dream of becoming and how do you believe Syracuse University can help you achieve this? (250 words)



SWARTHMORE COLLEGE

In 150 to 250 words, please write about why you are interested in applying to and attending Swarthmore.



**TEMPLE
UNIVERSITY**

No writing supplement



**TEXAS CHRISTIAN
UNIVERSITY**

Choose one of the following topics (300-500 words)

At TCU, our mission statement is very important to us: “To educate individuals to think and act as ethical leaders and responsible citizens in the global community.” This is integrated into all aspects of the TCU experience. If you were to write a mission statement about your life, what would it be and how does this mission direct your life and goals?

Tell us about one of the most significant people, experiences or circumstances that has shaped your life thus far. How has he, she or it influenced your character? How might you use what you have learned to achieve your goals?

Throughout time, individuals deemed by society as “great” often pointed to some failure in their lives as a pivotal moment leading them to their successful path. Tell us about a time in your life in which failure propelled you toward success.

In her best-selling novel *The Secret Life of Bees*, TCU alumna Sue Monk Kidd writes, “The hardest thing on Earth is choosing what matters.” What matters to you?



**THOMAS AQUINAS
COLLEGE**

No writing supplement



TUFTS UNIVERSITY

Applicants to the School of Arts and Sciences, School of Engineering, and 5-Year Tufts/NEC Combined Degree answer the following two questions:

Which aspects of the Tufts undergraduate experience prompt your application? In short, 'Why Tufts?' (100-150 words)

Now we'd like to know a little more about you. Please respond to one of the following three questions. (200-250 words):

From recognizing break dancing as a new Olympic sport, to representation in media, to issues of accessibility in our public transit systems, what is something that you can talk about endlessly? What do you care about and why?

Whether you've built circuit boards or written slam poetry, created a community event or designed mixed media installations, tell us: What have you designed, invented, engineered, or produced? Or what do you hope to?

We all have a story to tell. And with over 5,000 undergraduate students on our campus, that is over 5,000 stories to share and learn. What's yours?

Applicants to the BFA or 5-Year BFA+BA/BS Combined Degree at the SMFA at Tufts answer the following two questions:

Which aspects of the Tufts undergraduate experience prompt your application? Why SMFA at Tufts? (100-150 words)

Art has the power to disrupt our preconceptions, shape public discourse, and imagine new ways of being in the world. Whether you think of Ai Weiwei's work reframing the refugee crisis, Kehinde Wiley and Amy Sherald's portraits of the Obamas reimagining portrait painting on a national scale, or Yayoi Kusama's fanciful Infinity Mirrors rekindling our sense of wonder, it is clear that contemporary art is driven by ideas. What are the ideas you'd like to explore in your work? (200-250 words)



TRINITY COLLEGE

Prompts not yet released - will update when posted



TULANE UNIVERSITY

Please briefly elaborate on one of your extracurricular activities or work experiences. (250 words)

Please describe why you are interested in attending Tulane University (50-800)



UNION COLLEGE

Prompts not yet released - will update when posted



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Please answer any 4 questions below (350 words)

Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes, or contributed to group efforts over time.

Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express your creative side.

What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?

Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.

Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the steps you have taken to overcome this challenge. How has this challenge affected your academic achievement?

Think about an academic subject that inspires you. Describe how you have furthered this interest inside and/or outside of the classroom.

What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?

Beyond what has already been shared in your application, what do you believe makes you stand out as a strong candidate for admissions to the University of California?



UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Required Question

How does the University of Chicago, as you know it now, satisfy your desire for a particular kind of learning, community, and future? Please address with some specificity your own wishes and how they relate to UChicago.

Extended Essay (Required; Choose one)

Cats have nine lives, Pac-Man has 3 lives, and radioactive isotopes have half-lives. How many lives does something else—conceptual or actual—have, and why?
—Inspired by Kedrick Shin, Class of 2019

If there's a limited amount of matter in the universe, how can Olive Garden (along with other restaurants and their concepts of food infinity) offer truly unlimited soup, salad, and breadsticks? Explain this using any method of analysis you wish—physics, biology, economics, history, theology... the options, as you can tell, are endless.

—Inspired by Yoonseo Lee, Class of 2023

A hot dog might be a sandwich, and cereal might be a soup, but is a _____ a _____?
—Inspired by Arya Muralidharan, Class of 2021 (and dozens of others who, this year and in past years, have submitted the question "Is a hot dog a sandwich," to which we reply, "maybe")

"Fiction reveals truth that reality obscures." – Jessamyn West

—Inspired by Elizabeth Mansfield, Class of 2020

UChicago has international campus centers around the world, but we don't have any interplanetary, interstellar, or interdimensional campuses... yet! Propose a spot in time or space, in this or any universe, for a new UChicago campus. What types of courses would be taught at this site? What cultural experiences await students who study there?

—Inspired by Peter Jasperse, Class of 2022



“Don’t be afraid to pick past prompts! I liked some of the ones from previous years more than those made newly available for my year. Also, don’t worry about the ‘correct’ way to interpret a question. If there exists a correct way to interpret the prompt I chose, it certainly was not my answer.”

—Matthew Lohrs, Class of 2023

In the spirit of adventurous inquiry (and with the encouragement of one of our current students!) choose one of our past prompts (or create a question of your own). Be original, creative, thought provoking. Draw on your best qualities as a writer, thinker, visionary, social critic, sage, citizen of the world, or future citizen of the University of Chicago; take a little risk, and have fun!



UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS – AMHERST

Please tell us why you want to attend UMass Amherst? (100 words)

Please tell us why you chose the Majors you did? (100 words)



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA CHAMPAIGN

Explain your interest in the major you selected and describe how you have recently explored or developed this interest inside and/or outside the classroom. You may also explain how this major relates to your future career goals. If you’re applying to the Division of General Studies, explain your academic interests and strengths or your future career goals. You may include any majors or areas of study you’re currently considering. (300 to 400 words)

If you select a second-choice major other than the Division of General Studies on your application, write a second essay explaining your interest in this major, too. (300 to 400 words)



UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

If you could only do one of the activities you have listed in the Activities section of your application, which one would you keep doing? Why? (Required for all applicants; 100 word limit)

Everyone belongs to many different communities and/or groups defined by (among other things) shared geography, religion, ethnicity, income, cuisine, interest, race, ideology, or intellectual heritage. Choose one of the communities to which you belong, and describe that community and your place within it. (Required for all applicants; 300 word limit)

Describe the unique qualities that attract you to the specific undergraduate College or School (including preferred admission and dual degree programs) to which you are applying at the University of Michigan. How would that curriculum support your interests? (Required for all applicants; 550 word limit)



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA – TWIN CITIES

Please include an explanation of why you would like to study the major(s) you have selected. You may also use this space to indicate your interest in other major(s) in the colleges listed above. (150 words)



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA – CHAPEL HILL

UNC-specific short answer prompts: You'll choose two of the following prompts to respond to in 200-250 words.

Tell us about a peer who has made a difference in your life.

What do you hope will change about the place where you live?

What is one thing that we don't know about you that you want us to know?

What about your background, or what perspective, belief, or experience, will help you contribute to the education of your classmates at UNC?



UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

Please provide a response to the following question: (200 words)

What excites you about the University of Notre Dame that makes it stand out from other institutions? *

Please provide responses to TWO (2) of the following questions: (200 words)

The founder of the University of Notre Dame, Father Edward Sorin, C.S.C., was only 28 when he established the University with the vision that it would become a “powerful means of doing good.” We have always known that young people can be catalysts for change. What is one way that you have made an impact in your community?

If you were to bring a new friend to your hometown and give them a personal tour, what is a meaningful place you would show them?

Defend an unpopular opinion you hold.

Many high schools have books that are required reading. Thinking beyond the common examples, what book do you believe should be on your school’s reading list and why?



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

As you’ve looked into what it will be like to attend Oregon, you’ve hopefully learned about what makes Ducks unique. No two are alike, though, so tell us what makes you who you are, and how that connects to our campus community. We are interested in your thoughts and experiences recognizing difference and supporting equity and inclusion, and choosing one of the two following options will guide you in sharing those thoughts. You can learn more about equity and inclusion at Oregon by visiting [here](#).

Essay Topic: (250-500 words - choose one of the topics below)

Describe an experience with discrimination, whether it was fighting against discrimination or recognizing your contribution to discriminating against a person or group. What did you learn from the experience? In what ways will you bring those lessons to the University of Oregon?

OR

The University of Oregon values difference, and we take pride in our diverse community. Please explain how you will share your experiences, values and interests with our community. In what ways can you imagine offering your support to others?



UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Penn-specific Essays

How did you discover your intellectual and academic interests, and how will you explore them at the University of Pennsylvania? Please respond considering the specific undergraduate school you have selected. (300-450 words)

At Penn, learning and growth happen outside of the classroom, too. How will you explore the community at Penn? Consider how this community will help shape your perspective and identity, and how your identity and perspective will help shape this community. (150-200 words)

For students applying to the coordinated dual-degree and specialized programs, please answer these questions in regard to your single-degree school choice; your interest in the coordinated dual-degree or specialized program may be addressed through the program-specific essay.

Computer and Cognitive Science: Artificial Intelligence

Why are you interested in the Computer & Cognitive Science: Artificial Intelligence program at the University of Pennsylvania? (400-650 words)

DMD: Digital Media Design Program

Why are you interested in the Digital Media Design (DMD) program at the University of Pennsylvania? (400-650 words)

Huntsman: The Huntsman Program in International Studies and Business

The Huntsman Program supports the development of globally-minded scholars who become engaged citizens, creative innovators, and ethical leaders in the public, private, and non-profit sectors in the United States and internationally. What draws you to a dual-degree program in business and international studies, and how would you use what you learn to make a contribution to a global issue where business and international affairs intersect? (400-650 words)

LSM: The Roy and Diana Vagelos Program in Life Sciences and Management

LSM seeks students who are enthusiastic about combining science with management. What excites you about this combination? What advantages and opportunities does the combination provide, and what issues could it address? Be as specific and original as possible in addressing these questions. It is important that you share your thoughts written in your own words because that is what we are interested in reading. (400-650 words)

M&T: The Jerome Fisher Program in Management and Technology

Explain how you will use the M&T program to explore your interest in business, engineering, and the intersection of the two. (400-650 words)

Describe a problem that you solved that showed leadership and creativity. (250 words)

NETS: The Rajendra and Neera Singh Program in Networked and Social Systems Engineering

Describe your interests in modern networked information systems and technologies, such as the internet, and their impact on society, whether in terms of economics, communication, or the creation of beneficial content for society. Feel free to draw on examples from your own experiences as a user, developer, or student of technology. (400-650 words)

NHCM: Nursing and Healthcare Management

Discuss your interest in nursing and health care management. How might Penn's coordinated dual-degree program in nursing and business help you meet your goals? (400-650 words)

Seven-Year Bio-Dental Program

Please list pre-dental or pre-medical experience. This experience can include but is not limited to observation in a private practice, dental clinic, or hospital setting; dental assisting; dental laboratory work; dental or medical research, etc. Please include time allotted to each activity, dates of attendance, location, and description of your experience. If you do not have any pre-dental or pre-medical experience, please indicate what you have done that led you to your decision to enter dentistry.

List any activities which demonstrate your ability to work with your hands.

What activities have you performed that demonstrate your ability to work cooperatively with people?

Please explain your reasons for selecting a career in dentistry. Please include what interests you the most in dentistry as well as what interests you the least.

Do you have relatives who are dentists or are in dental school? If so, indicate the name of each relative, his/her relationship to you, the school attended, and the dates attended.

VIPER: The Roy and Diana Vagelos Integrated Program in Energy Research

Describe your interests in energy science and technology drawing on your previous academic, research, and extracurricular experiences that allow you to appreciate the scientific or engineering challenges related to energy and sustainability. If you have previous experience with research, describe your research project (outlining the goals, hypotheses, approach, results, and conclusions). Describe how your experiences have shaped your research and interests, and identify how the VIPER program will help you achieve your goals. Also, please indicate which VIPER majors in both science and engineering are most interesting to you at this time. (400-650 words)



UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

No writing supplement



UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND

Please select one of the following prompts to address (650 words):

What is an urgent global challenge or social justice topic about which you are passionate?
What solutions or outcomes do you hope to see?

By the time you graduate from college, there will be jobs that don't exist today. Describe one of them and how Richmond might prepare you for it.

You are required to spend the next year in either the past or the future. To what year would you travel and why?



UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

Please select one of the following prompts to address:

What is an urgent global challenge or social justice topic about which you are passionate?
What solutions or outcomes do you hope to see?

By the time you graduate from college, there will be jobs that don't exist today. Describe one of them and how Richmond might prepare you for it.

You are required to spend the next year in either the past or the future. To what year would you travel and why?



UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO

The University of San Diego offers diverse educational opportunities grounded in the liberal arts and sciences. First-year students are immersed in one of our five Learning Communities (LC), with the themes reflecting the vitality of the liberal arts tradition: Advocate, Collaborate, Cultivate, Illuminate and Innovate. Select one of these five themes and describe how it resonates with you and why (350 words).

Now respond to another one of the three essay prompts. Essays should be approximately 200 words in length.

Here at USD, we believe that our campus community and the communities we engage with are integral parts of who we are as a university. Our students come from all walks of life, have experienced very different realities and bring with them an array of unique perspectives. Some of these perspectives are underrepresented and underserved by higher education. What contribution have you made to your high school and/or local community that best exemplifies your awareness and commitment to creating a diverse and equitable community?

USD is a proud Changemaker Campus, as designated by Ashoka U. As such, the USD experience emphasizes changemaking through civic engagement, social innovation and global perspective. If you had the opportunity to get involved with a project or organization that addresses a contemporary social issue, what issue would you address and why?

The year 2024 will mark USD's 75th anniversary. In preparation for this milestone, we as a campus community are looking to grow in meaningful and impactful ways. We are looking to set the standard for an engaged, contemporary Catholic university where innovative changemakers confront humanity's urgent challenges. In what meaningful and impactful ways do you hope to grow by the year 2024? Where do you see yourself, and what type of impact do you hope to have on the world around you?



UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

We are interested in learning more about you. Please respond to the prompt below with a response of no more than 200 words.*

The University of San Francisco's Jesuit tradition emphasizes community engagement and education for social justice, inspiring our students to become passionate agents for others. How do you see yourself becoming a part of this mission?



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Please respond to one of the prompts below. (250 words)

USC believes that one learns best when interacting with people of different backgrounds, experiences and perspectives. Tell us about a time you were exposed to a new idea or when your beliefs were challenged by another point of view. Please discuss the significance of the experience and its effect on you.

USC faculty place an emphasis on interdisciplinary academic opportunities. Describe something outside of your intended academic focus about which you are interested in learning.

What is something about yourself that is essential to understanding you?



UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - AUSTIN

All applicants must submit three required short answers and may submit one optional short answer responding to prompts in your admissions application. Answers are limited to no more than 40 lines, or about 250–300 words, typically the length of one paragraph.

For Spring 2020 Applicants

Career Plans (250-300 words)

If you could have any career, what would it be? Why? Describe any activities you are involved in, life experiences you've had, or even classes you've taken that have helped you identify this professional path.

Tips to consider: This is an opportunity to describe your academic and future professional interests. You may not yet be 100% certain about what you want to do, but is there a particular field that you think you want to work in, or a certain path you want to pursue after college? How have your interests and experiences influenced your choice of majors or your plans to explore in college?



Academics (250-300 words)

Do you believe your academic record (transcript information and test scores) provide an accurate representation of you as a student? Why or why not?

Tips to consider: Feel free to address anything you want the Office of Admissions to know about your academic record so that we can consider this information when we review your application. You can discuss your academic work, class rank, GPA, individual course grades, test scores, and/or the classes that you took or the classes that were available to you. You can also describe how special circumstances and/or your school, community, and family environments impacted your high school performance.

Leadership (250-300 words)

How do you show leadership in your life? How do you see yourself being a leader at UT Austin?

Tips to consider: Leadership can be demonstrated by positions you hold as an officer in a club or organization, but other types of leadership are important too. Leaders can emerge in various situations at any given time, including outside of the school experience. Please share a brief description of the type of leadership qualities you possess, from school and non-school related experiences, including demonstrations of leadership in your job, your community, or within your family responsibilities, and then share how you hope to demonstrate leadership as a member of our campus community.

For Summer/Fall 2020 Applicants (250-300 words)

Why are you interested in the major you indicated as your first-choice major?

Leadership can be demonstrated in many ways. Please share how you have demonstrated leadership in either your school, job, community, and/or within your family responsibilities.

Please share how you believe your experiences, perspectives, and/or talents have shaped your ability to contribute to and enrich the learning environment at UT Austin, both in and out of the classroom.

Optional Short Answer:

Please share background on events or special circumstances that may have impacted your high school academic performance. (250-300 words)



UNIVERSITY OF TULSA

Why are you interested in The University of Tulsa? (250 words)

Who in your life is depending on you? What are they depending on you for? (250 words)

Please complete this sentence: My favorite inspirational quote is... Please limit this quote to 250 characters. Who said it?



UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

We are looking for passionate students to join our diverse community of scholars, researchers, and artists. Answer the question that corresponds to the school/program to which you are applying in a half page or roughly 250 words.

College of Arts and Sciences - What work of art, music, science, mathematics, or literature has surprised, unsettled, or challenged you, and in what way?

School of Engineering and Applied Sciences - If you were given funding for a small engineering project that would make everyday life better for one friend or family member, what would you design?

School of Architecture - Describe an instance or place where you have been inspired by architecture or design.

School of Nursing - School of Nursing applicants may have experience shadowing, volunteering, or working in a health care environment. Tell us about a health care-related experience or another significant interaction that deepened your interest in studying Nursing

Kinesiology Program - Discuss experiences that led you to choose the kinesiology major.

Answer one of the following questions in a half page or roughly 250 words.

What's your favorite word and why?

We are a community with quirks, both in language and in traditions. Describe one of your quirks and why it is part of who you are.



Student self-governance, which encourages student investment and initiative, is a hallmark of the UVA culture. In her fourth year at UVA, Laura Nelson was inspired to create Flash Seminars, one-time classes which facilitate high-energy discussion about thought-provoking topics outside of traditional coursework. If you created a Flash Seminar, what idea would you explore and why?

UVA students paint messages on Beta Bridge when they want to share information with our community. What would you paint on Beta Bridge and why is this your message
UVA students are charged with living honorably and upholding a Community of Trust. Give us an example of a community that is important to you and how you worked to strengthen that community.



UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

If you would like an opportunity to further present yourself to the Admissions Committee, you may submit a response to ONE of the following prompts. (500 words)

Imagine it is the morning of August 28, 1963 and Twitter has already been developed. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has contracted the flu. Rather than giving his historic “I Have a Dream” speech from the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC, he instead sends out a Tweet that highlights the central point of his speech. What does he Tweet (in true Twitter fashion, no longer than 280 characters) and why?

A time traveler gives you a remote with two buttons: pause and rewind. Which would you prefer to use on your own life and why?

Congratulations! You have been elected to give a TED Talk. You will give an 18-minute presentation on the topic of your choice to a room full of people who are eager to hear your insights. This talk will also be recorded and made available online, with the opportunity to go viral and affect millions. What is the title of your talk? What is the message you are trying to get across? What would you say in the final minute of the presentation that would leave a lasting impression? Explain.

At the University of Vermont, we have a set of core values called Our Common Ground, which define how we work, live, study, do research, and participate as members of the community. Each core value statement falls under one of the following words: Respect, Integrity, Innovation, Openness, Justice, and Responsibility. Choose one word from Our Common Ground and explain why it is important to you, how it has impacted you, and how you have incorporated it into your life.

Why UVM?



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Essay prompt (required)

Tell a story from your life, describing an experience that either demonstrates your character or helped to shape it. (500 words)

Short response (required)

Our families and communities often define us and our individual worlds. Community might refer to your cultural group, extended family, religious group, neighborhood or school, sports team or club, co-workers, etc. Describe the world you come from and how you, as a product of it, might add to the diversity of the UW. (300 words)

Tip: Keep in mind that the UW strives to create a community of students richly diverse in cultural backgrounds, experiences, values and viewpoints.

Additional information about yourself or your circumstances (optional)

You are not required to write anything in this section, but you may include additional information if something has particular significance to you. For example, you may use this space if (200 words) :

You have experienced personal hardships in attaining your education

Your activities have been limited because of work or family obligations

You have experienced unusual limitations or opportunities unique to the schools you attended



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - MADISON

Tell us why you decided to apply to the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In addition, please include why you are interested in studying the major(s) you have selected. If you selected undecided please describe your areas of possible academic interest. (650 words)



VASSAR COLLEGE

Why are you applying to Vassar? (350 words)

Please select and respond to ONE of the following questions in an essay of at least one typewritten page (double spaced). This essay should be distinct and different from the essay submitted through the Common Application.

In the spirit of Saint Augustine, we believe that everyone in the Villanova community learns from each other. What is a lesson that you have learned in your life so far that you will share with others?

You may live in one of the busiest cities in all the world or come from a small town with just one traffic light. The place that you call home has probably shaped who you are in some way. Tell us about where you are from and what, from there, you will bring to Villanova.

Please describe a choice for change that you have made in your life that has greatly affected your life or the lives of others.



Virginia Tech's motto is "Ut Prosim" which means 'That I May Serve'. We are interested in learning more about your interests and how you have been involved and/or served. Briefly describe a group, organization, or community that you have been involved with. Is this a special area of interest for you, and why? How long have you been involved? What role did you play? What contributions have you made to this group? Were you able to influence others and/or influence decisions for the good of the group? (120 words)

Describe a situation where you were involved or witness to an act of discrimination. How, or did, you respond? Do you wish you would have responded differently? Did this situation cause any change to happen based on this event and did you have a role in that change? What did you learn from this experience? (120 words)

Describe an example of a situation where you have significantly influenced others, took on a leadership role, helped resolve a dispute, or contributed to a group's goals. What was your role, what responsibilities did you take on? Did you encounter any obstacles, and if so how did you respond, were you able to overcome them? What would you do differently? (120 words)

Briefly describe a personal goal you have set for yourself. Why this goal, what is your timeline to achieve this goal, what precipitated this goal? Have you turned to anyone for advice or help, what was their role, what did you learn about yourself, are you still working toward this goal? (120 words)



WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

List five books you have read that intrigued you.

As part of my high-school English curriculum, I was required to read _____. I would have liked to replace it with _____. The required book I was most surprised I enjoyed was _____. (100 characters each)

Tell us how a work of fiction you've read has helped you to understand the world's complexity. (300 words)

What piques your intellectual curiosity, and why? (150 words)

As part of our "Voices of Our Time" series – which allows students, faculty, and staff to hear from some of the world's leading thinkers – Wake Forest has hosted Ta-Nehisi Coates, Michelle Alexander, Eboo Patel, and Thomas Friedman. If you could choose the next series speaker, whom would you pick, and why? (150 words)

Give us your top ten list on a chosen theme. (100 characters per entry)

At Wake Forest, we gather our students in "Calls to Conversation," congregating small groups around dinner tables in faculty's and administrators' homes to discuss topics organized around a theme, for example "arts for social change," "gender in society," and "leading a meaningful life." If you could design a theme for a "Call to Conversation," what would you choose, and why? (150 words)

We live in an age intensely interested in heroes. Professor Joseph Campbell defined "hero" as "someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself." Describe a hero in public life and how and why, in your opinion, they meet Professor Campbell's definition. (150 words)



WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

Respond to one of the essay prompts below, and submit your completed writing supplement by December 1, 2019. You will not be able to return to your writing supplement after it is submitted. (800 words)



“To promote literature in this rising empire and to encourage the arts, have ever been amongst the warmest wishes of my heart.” (George Washington, 1798, first president of the United States and first major benefactor of Washington and Lee University) Describe a work of art that has influenced you, and discuss the impact it has had on you.

In mathematics, the shortest distance between two points on a flat surface is a straight line. While geometry is predictable, sometimes day to day life is not. Reflect on a time when your path was not as simple or direct as anticipated. How did you manage, and what did you learn?

“If growing up means it would be beneath my dignity to climb a tree...and if it means I must prepare to shoulder burdens with a worried air...I’ll never grow up, never grow up, never grow up, not me!” In the song “I Won’t Grow Up” from 1954’s Broadway production of Peter Pan, Peter is averse to the prospect of adulthood and adamant about remaining a boy. What are you most reluctant to leave behind and/or eager to embrace as you move into adulthood?

“What I want to hear after a Spring Term course is that ‘This class changed my life.’ ” (Marc Conner, Ballengee Professor of English and Provost). W&L’s Spring Term is a four week, intensive experience during which students take only one course, allowing for undivided attention to the subject matter. Spring Term courses are known for innovative pedagogy, interdisciplinary scholarship, travel, and field work in diverse settings. If you could design a Spring Term course, what would you propose, and why would you choose to pursue that topic?

Creating an environment of dignity and opportunity for everyone can be difficult to execute fully and requires constant cultivation. Reflect on a time when a group or community of which you are a part was challenged by its members’ disparate perspectives or experiences. What role did you play as a leader or member of the group in that situation? What did you learn from the experience?



WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

Tell us about something that really sparks your intellectual interest and curiosity and compels you to explore more in the program/area of study that you indicated. It could be an idea, book, project, cultural activity, work of art, start-up, music, movie, research, innovation, question, or other pursuit. (250 words)



WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

No writing supplement



WELLESLEY COLLEGE

When choosing a college community, you are choosing a place where you believe that you can live, learn, and flourish. Generations of inspiring women have thrived in the Wellesley community, and we want to know what aspects of this community inspire you to consider Wellesley. We know that there are more than 100 reasons to choose Wellesley, but the “Wellesley 100” is a good place to start. Visit The Wellesley 100 and let us know, in two well-developed paragraphs, which two items most attract, inspire, or energize you and why. (Not-so-secret tip: The “why” matters to us.)

Please limit your response to the Wellesley College essay to two well-developed paragraphs with a maximum of 400 words.



WHITMAN COLLEGE

No writing supplement



WHEATON COLLEGE

Among the extracurricular activities you have participated in, which one is the most important to you and why? (200 words)

Faith questions:

In light of your faith in Jesus, what values and personal character traits are becoming more or less important to you? (200 words)

Using specific examples, in what ways is Christ leading you to live out these qualities and values in the Church and world? (200 words)



WHITTIER COLLEGE

What was the most influential factor in your decision to apply to Whittier? (500 characters)



WILLIAM & MARY

Beyond your impressive academic credentials and extracurricular accomplishments, what else makes you unique and colorful? We know nobody fits neatly into 500 words or less, but you can provide us with some suggestion of the type of person you are. Anything goes! Inspire us, impress us, or just make us laugh. Think of this optional opportunity as show and tell by proxy and with an attitude.



WILLIAMS COLLEGE

Please respond to one of the prompts below in a short essay of 300 words or fewer.

At Williams we believe that bringing together students and professors in small groups produces extraordinary academic outcomes. Our distinctive Oxford-style tutorial classes—in which two students are guided by a professor in deep exploration of a single topic—are a prime example. Each week the students take turns developing independent work—an essay, a problem set, a piece of art—and critiquing their partner’s work. Focused on close reading, writing and oral defense of ideas, more than 60 tutorials a year are offered across the curriculum, with titles like Aesthetic Outrage, Financial Crises: Causes and Cures, and Genome Sciences: At the Cutting Edge. Imagine yourself in a tutorial at Williams. Of anyone in the world, whom would you choose to be your partner in the class, and why?

Each Sunday night, in a tradition called Storytime, students, faculty and staff gather to hear a fellow community member relate a brief story from their life (and to munch on the storyteller’s favorite homemade cookies). What story would you share? What lessons have you drawn from that story, and how would those lessons inform your time at Williams?



Every first-year student at Williams lives in an Entry—a thoughtfully constructed microcosm of the student community that’s a defining part of the Williams experience. From the moment they arrive, students find themselves in what’s likely the most diverse collection of backgrounds, perspectives and interests they’ve ever encountered. What might differentiate you from the other first-year students in an entry? What perspective(s) would you add to the conversation with your peers?



WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

Worcester Polytechnic Institute seeks students who are the right fit for its academic and campus community. In what ways are you the right fit for the distinctive educational and campus experience that Worcester Polytechnic Institute offers? (500 words)



YALE UNIVERSITY

Applicants submitting the Coalition Application, Common Application, or QuestBridge Application will respond to the following short answer questions:

Students at Yale have plenty of time to explore their academic interests before committing to one or more major fields of study. Many students either modify their original academic direction or change their minds entirely. As of this moment, what academic areas seem to fit your interests or goals most comfortably? Please indicate up to three from the list provided.

Why do these areas appeal to you? (100 words or fewer)

What is it about Yale that has led you to apply? (125 words or fewer)

Applicants submitting the Coalition Application or Common Application will also respond to the following short answer questions, in 35 words or fewer:

What inspires you?

Yale’s residential colleges regularly host conversations with guests representing a wide range of experiences and accomplishments. What person, past or present, would you invite to speak? What question would you ask?



You are teaching a Yale course. What is it called?

Most first-year Yale students live in suites of four to six students. What do you hope to add to your suitemates' experience? What do you hope they will add to yours?

Essays: Applicants submitting the Coalition Application or Common Application will respond to the prompt below in 250 words or fewer:

Think about an idea or topic that has been intellectually exciting for you. Why are you drawn to it?

Applicants submitting the Common Application will also select ONE of the two prompts below and respond in 250 words or fewer:

Reflect on your engagement with a community to which you belong. How has this engagement affected you?

Yale students, faculty, and alumni engage issues of local, national, and international importance. Discuss an issue that is significant to you and how your college experience could help you address it.

Applicants submitting the Coalition Application will also select ONE of the two prompts below and respond in 250 words or fewer:

Reflect on your engagement with a community to which you belong. How has this engagement affected you?

Yale students, faculty, and alumni engage issues of local, national, and international importance. Discuss an issue that is significant to you and how your college experience could help you address it.

In addition to writing on your chosen prompt, upload an audio file, video, image, or document you have created that is meaningful to you and relates to your response. Above your response, include a one-sentence description of your upload. Please limit uploads to the following file types: mp3, mov, jpeg, word, pdf. Advanced editing is not necessary. Uploads provided via the Coalition Application will be reviewed by the Admissions Office only. Review the Supplementary Material instructions for material that may be evaluated by Yale faculty.

Engineering Essay

Applicants submitting the Coalition Application or Common Application who select one of Yale's engineering majors will also respond to the prompt below in 300 words or fewer: Please tell us more about what has led you to an interest in this field of study, what experiences (if any) you have had in engineering, and what it is about Yale's engineering program that appeals to you.



YORK COLLEGE OF PENNSYLVANIA

Please submit your thoughtful response to the following question (maximum length should be no longer than 500 words):

Describe the attributes of a York education that make it a good fit for your future. You may also provide a personal example which demonstrates your commitment to planning, pursuing, and reaching your goals.