

## 2008 Virginia Colleges Application Essays

### **Common Application**

**Short answer** – Please briefly elaborate on one of your activities (extracurricular, personal activities or work experience). Attach your response on a separate sheet (150 words or fewer).

**Personal Statement** – This personal statement helps us become acquainted with you in ways different from courses, grades, test scores, and other objective data. It will demonstrate your ability to organize thoughts and express yourself. We are looking for an essay that will help us know you better as a person and as a student. Please write an essay (250-500 words) on a topic of your choice or one of the options listed below.

1. Evaluate a significant experience, achievement, risk you have taken, or ethical dilemma you have faced and its impact on you.
2. Discuss some issue of personal, local, national, or international concern and its importance to you.
3. Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you, and describe that influence.
4. Describe a character in fiction, an historical figure, or a creative work (as in art, music, science, etc.) that has had an influence on you, and explain that influence.
5. A range of academic interests, personal perspectives, and life experiences add much to the educational mix. Given your personal background, describe an experience that illustrates what you would bring to the diversity in a college community, or an encounter that demonstrated the importance of diversity to you.
6. Topic of your choice.

### **Averett University**

1. List the accomplishments of which you are most proud...
2. List the most interesting courses you have taken and why....

### **Bluefield College**

No essays or personal statements are required or requested.

### **Bridgewater College**

Personal Statement – We are interested in knowing interesting things about you that do not appear on your transcript or are not reflected by your GPA and standardized test scores. On a separate paper, please tell us anything you would like to know about you as we make our admission decision.

### **Christopher Newport University**

Personal Statement or Essay – We want to learn more about you beyond the grades, test scores, and other information that already appears elsewhere in this application. All applicants are required to submit a personal statement or essay (usually 250-500 words) on a topic of your choice.

### **College of William and Mary**

Uses the Common Application essay questions

### **Eastern Mennonite College**

No essays or personal statements are required or requested.

### **Emory & Henry College**

No essays or personal statements are required or requested.

### **Ferrum College**

No essays or personal statements are required or requested.

### **George Mason University**

All freshman applicants should submit an essay with their admission application. Scholarship and/or Score Optional applicants must submit two total essays with their application. Each essay should be no more than one typed page.

The Admissions Committee is interested in learning more about you. Prepare an essay about yourself. The essay should discuss information about yourself that cannot be found elsewhere on the application. Possible topics to include in your essay are: your ambitions and goals, a special talent or unusual interest that sets you apart from your peers, or a significant event or relationship that has influenced you during your life.

### **Hampden-Sydney College**

It is our aim to get to know you as well as possible through this application. With this in mind, please write a brief essay on one of the topics listed below, in order to show us how well you organize your thoughts and express yourself effectively. The essay is a very important part of the application process for all candidates.

1. Tell us about a person who has had a significant influence on you, and describe that influence.
2. Describe a significant experience, achievement, or ethical dilemma in your life, and tell us about its impact on you.
3. Describe some personal object or item you have saved for years and explain why you kept it.
4. Explain what you do for fun and how it makes your life better.
5. Tell about an experience you have had with people of different race, background, or culture.
6. Write on a topic of your choice.

### **Hampton University**

This essay helps us become acquainted with you in ways different from courses, grades, test scores and other objective data. We are looking for an essay that will help us know you better as a person and as a student. Please write an essay on the following topic:

How should today's youth combat negative moral influences?

### **Hollins University**

Below are three topics that pertain to the Hollins experience. Choose one of the topics and answer one of the questions within the topic (topic three has just one question). Please enclose a short (250 words minimum) typed personal essay. Indicate the topic number and question letter on your essay.

1. Hollins prepares its graduates for active lives of fulfilling work, personal growth, and community service. Please write about either:
  - a. A significant experience, achievement, or risk you have taken, or ethical dilemma you have faced, and its impact on you.Or
  - b. Volunteer community service you have already performed. Why was this service important to you, and what kind of service would you like to perform in the future?

2. Hollins respects and encourages the creative spirit in all its students. Please write about either:
  - a. How you enjoy expressing your creativity.Or
  - b. How you used your creativity to approach a problem.
3. For more than 150 years, Hollins has been educating women, many of whom have become role models in family life and in business. What woman, not in your family, do you most admire, and why?

### **James Madison University**

Optional - We do not require a particular topic for the Personal Statement. We allow applicants to decide what the committee still needs to know in order to accurately evaluate their application. Please do not repeat information that can be found in the application. This space is provided to help the committee get to know the applicant better. We encourage students to be creative and have fun with it! Please know that the committee will consider content and grammar as well as spelling. The statement should be about a page but no longer than a page and a half. We don't have a preference in font type or line spacing.

### **Liberty University**

Liberty University's mission is to produce Christ-centered men and women with the values, knowledge, and skills required to impact tomorrow's world. Attach your 250-word essay on the following: Describe how your perspectives of life and morality will enable you to contribute to Liberty University's mission.

### **Longwood University**

Personal Statements – In at least a paragraph, complete statements 1, 2 and 3. (You need not use our specific wording.) The Admissions Committee will evaluate your creativity, insightfulness, and writing style.

1. The accomplishment of which I am the proudest is...
2. A circumstance or obstacle about which the Admission Committee should know is...I overcame it by...
3. Earning a college degree is important to me because...

### **Lynchburg College**

Uses the Common Application essay questions or an essay, written on the topic of your choice, or a graded writing sample from your junior or senior year.

### **Mary Baldwin College**

If you wish to submit an essay please do so on a separate sheet of paper. You should write your essay about a personal achievement that had great impact on your life.

### **Marymount University**

No essays or personal statements are required or requested.

### **Norfolk State University**

No essays or personal statements are required or requested.

### **Old Dominion University**

Students seeking scholarships are strongly encouraged to submit an essay. Essays must be typed, double-spaced, 400 words maximum and may be written on any topic. Please be sure that your full name is typed on each page of this essay.

### **Radford University**

A personal statement provides detail beyond the grades and numbers on your transcript. We encourage you to include a piece of writing on the subject of your choice so that we can know you better. If you have any special circumstances that you would like the admissions committee to consider, please include this information as well.

### **Randolph College**

Uses the Common Application essay questions or Randolph College application essay. Communicating effectively in writing, organizing thoughts and expressing ideas clearly are very important to a liberal arts education. Randolph College is committed to “writing across the curriculum” and offers support services to help students become better writers. Please send us a sample of your writing, which can tell us a lot about you. Send either a photocopy of a grades essay you wrote in the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade, or an essay written on a topic of your choice (at least 400 words).

### **Randolph-Macon College**

Uses the Common Application essay questions or Randolph-Macon College application essay. Since Randolph-Macon College evaluates each applicant as an individual, the Admissions Committee would like to get to know you better through your writing. Please take this opportunity to share with us some insights about your life, thoughts, goals and values. Respond to one of the three essay questions below in 250 words or more.

1. Describe and discuss in detail what you consider to be your biggest accomplishment in life so far (or something of which you are most proud). How has this accomplishment affected your life or your outlook on life?
2. Because Randolph-Macon values leadership so highly, we would like you to describe a situation or event during your high school years where you clearly demonstrated leadership qualities. How did this experience benefit you personally?
3. Randolph-Macon College is firmly committed to providing a broad liberal arts education, an education that challenges the mind to think, to reason, and to grow. Please elaborate on your understanding of the nature of the liberal arts education and describe what you hope to receive from your years of study at R-MC. How will a R-MC education further your personal career goals?

### **Roanoke College**

We strongly recommend that you submit an essay as an example of your writing ability and in support of your application. This may be attached to your online application under "additional information." However, the essay is optional.

### **St. Pauls College**

Please type or write in ink (Page) at least a 150 word essay in which you discuss (1) why you would like to attend St. Paul's College; (2) how you have prepared for college and a global society; (3) what obstacles you have overcome and what did you learn from the experience; and (4) what are your plans once you complete your undergraduate education?

### **Shenandoah University**

No essays or personal statements are required or requested.

### **Southern Virginia University**

No essays or personal statements are required or requested.

### Sweet Briar College

Uses the Common Application essay questions.

### University of Mary Washington

Uses the Common Application essay questions plus supplemental questions.

The Honor System is an important element of student life at the University of Mary Washington. The Committee on Admissions would like to know of your views about honor. Please select one of the following topics and construct a short (2 to 3 paragraph) essay on the essay sheet provided.

1. Describe how you might benefit from living under the Honor System at the University of Mary Washington.  
Or
2. Relate an event or situation in your life where your personal sense of honor influenced your or guided your actions.

### University of Richmond

Uses the Common Application essay questions plus supplemental essay.

Submit an essay written on one of the four prompts below.

- Tell us about an experience in which you left your comfort zone. How did this experience change you?
- Is there anything - whether it is politics, science, languages, culture or anything at all - about which you are particularly passionate? What is it and how did you become inspired to pursue it? How have you been involved in following this interest? Do you have any idea where you'd like to take it in the future?
- What opportunities have you sought that went beyond what was offered to every student at your school, or what circumstances have you overcome in order to achieve what you have? Of what are you most proud?
- Please react to the following quote by Christopher Morley (1890-1957, American author): "Read, every day, something no one else is reading. Think, every day, something no one else is thinking. Do, every day, something no one else would be silly enough to do. It is bad for the mind to continually be part of unanimity."

### University of Virginia

1. Please answer the question that corresponds to the school you selected on Part I of your application in half a page, or roughly 250 words.
  - a. **College of Arts and Sciences** – What work of art, music, science, mathematics, or literature has surprised or unsettled or challenged you, and in what way?
  - b. **School of Engineering** – Discuss experiences that led you to choose an engineering education at U.Va. and the role that scientific curiosity plays in your life.
  - c. **School of Architecture** – What led you to apply to the School of Architecture?
  - d. **School of Nursing** – Discuss experiences that led you to choose the School of Nursing.
2. Answer one of the following questions. Limit your response to half a page, or approximately 250 words.
  - a. What is your favorite word, and why?
  - b. Describe the world you come from and how that world shaped who you are.
  - c. Discuss something you secretly like but pretend not to or vice versa.
  - d. What issue of local, national, or international significance concerns you? Why?

- e. “We might say that we were looking for global schemas, symmetries, universal and unchanging laws – and what we have discovered is the mutable, the ephemeral, the complex.” Support or challenge Nobel Prize winner Ilya Prigogine’s assertion.
3. Please write on a topic of your choice.  
If an essay question for another college piqued your interest, feel free to submit your response to that question. Please limit your submission to one page, or approximately 500 words.

#### **University of Virginia’s College at Wise**

To supplement the information supplied by your academic records, you are strongly encouraged to provide a Statement of Educational Goals. Please write a short essay on a separate sheet and include with your Application for Admission.

#### **Virginia Commonwealth University**

Scholarship applicants should write a one- to two-page essay on one of the following topics. School of Nursing applicants are required to submit an essay for admission consideration. Applicants to the School of Nursing who also wish to be considered for scholarship consideration should submit only one essay, writing on topic number two below:

1. Compose Page 87 of your autobiography. In this essay, you should be creative, considering where your life story would be at this point.
2. “Education and Life: A Personal Statement.” In this essay, discuss your educational goals, including why you wish to study your chosen major.

#### **Virginia Intermont University**

No essays or personal statements are required or requested.

#### **Virginia Military Institute**

No essays or personal statements are required or requested.

#### **Virginia Tech**

Personal Statement (Optional)

You may respond to both statements (or one or neither) as you feel they support your individual application. Please limit your statement to no more than 200 words in length.

1. Virginia Tech is committed to providing the benefits of an educational environment rich in individual backgrounds, experiences and characteristics. What contributions might you as a student bring to help create a diverse educational community at Virginia Tech?
2. If there is something you think would be beneficial for the Admissions Committee to know as we review your academic history, please take this opportunity to explain.

#### **Virginia State University**

Please complete a one-page personal statement and submit it with your application.

#### **Virginia Union University**

On a separate sheet of paper, please submit a typed or printed essay of 100 or more words. You may include your interests, achievements, hobbies, experiences, or anything else you would like us to know about you.

**Virginia Wesleyan College**

Please feel free to use a computer or word processor for the essay portion of your application. Both essays should be completed and each should be at least four sentences long.

1. Describe what you expect from yourself as a student at Virginia Wesleyan College.
2. Choose one of your extracurricular, community or work activities and explain why it has been of value to you.

**Washington and Lee University**

Uses the Common Application essay questions

See Common Application for possible supplemental questions after September 1.