

2010-2011 Out of State College Application Essays

****Please use this listing with discretion. If you are applying using the Common Application, please double check university supplements.****

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 – Please write an essay (250-500 words) on a topic of your choice or one of the options listed below, and attach it to your application before submission. This personal statement helps us become acquainted with you as a person and a student, apart from courses, grades, test scores, and other objective data. It will also demonstrate your ability to organize thoughts and express yourself.

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.

American University

Uses the Common Application essay questions or the American University application essay

This is your opportunity to provide the Admissions Committee with a glimpse of you in a way that grades and test scores cannot. This essay is used to determine your ability to organize your thoughts and to express them clearly. Choose **one** essay topic. Write no more than 500 words on your own paper.

- Tell us about your relationship with your hometown.
- Your life is being made into a reality TV show. What will it be called, and why will people watch?
- A topic of your choice.

Arizona State University

No essays or personal statements required or requested.

Auburn University

Must log into application is see essay topic.

Example from 2009-2010 application -

This additional information is required for all freshman applicants and will assist the Office of Admissions and Records in your admission evaluation. While the primary factors in any admission decision are academic (high school coursework, grade point average and standardized test scores), the Office of Admissions and Records will consider other factors that contribute to your success.

- Describe an intellectual or creative opportunity from your high school years that you have enjoyed. Highlight your personal growth through this experience.
- Auburn University encourages undergraduates to participate in the Study Abroad program. If you could spend one semester studying abroad, where would you choose and why?
- In the space provided, please explain why you believe that your unique cultural, educational and/or life experiences will enhance the educational experience of the freshman class at Auburn.
- If you feel that special circumstances may have adversely affected your high school performance, please summarize.

Boston College

Uses the Common Application essay questions.

Boston University

Uses the Common Application essay questions.

Brigham Young University

Must establish online account before access to application.

Brown University

Uses the Common Application essay questions.

Bucknell University

Uses the Common Application essay questions plus supplemental essays.

The following questions are your opportunity to demonstrate, within the context of the Common Application, what makes you **un**common and uniquely you. In your responses, be bold and have some fun – really! Tell us about your talents and interests so that we can know the “you” behind the transcripts.

Required Essay

What are the three most important things your future faculty and classmates should know about you? *(75-150 words total)*

Optional Essay

At Bucknell, students are free to take creative and thoughtful risks. In fact, we encourage them to do so, and we support them along the way. As students realize their own potential through risk, so too, do they better understand how valuable risk can be in understanding – and making a difference in – this interconnected world. We’re interested in the kind of positive risk-taking energy you would bring to our University. Please

describe a time when you found the courage to step outside of your comfort zone to do something unexpected and completely unlike you. Why did you take this risk? What have you learned from the experience? (*up to 500 words*)

Carnegie-Mellon University

Uses the Common Application essay questions plus supplemental essay.

Please submit a one-page essay that explains why you have chosen your major, department or program. This essay should include the reasons why you've chosen the major, any goals or relevant work plans and any other information you would like us to know. If you are applying to more than one college or program, please mention each college or program you are applying to. Because our admission committees review applicants by colleges and programs, your essay can impact our final decision. Please do not exceed one page for this essay.

Catholic University of America

Uses the Common Application essay questions.

Clemson University

Must log-in to get to application.

Coastal Carolina University

No essay or personal statement is required or requested.

College of Charleston

Must log-in to get to application.

Columbia University

Write an essay which conveys to the reader a sense of who you are. Possible topics may include, but are not limited to, experiences which have shaped your life, the circumstances of your upbringing, your most meaningful, intellectual achievement, the way you see the world – the people in it, events great and small, everyday life – or any personal theme which appeals to your imagination. Please remember that we are concerned not only with the substance of your prose but with the writing style as well. We prefer that you limit yourself to approximately 250-500 words.

Colorado State University

Uses Common Application essay questions.

Cornell University

Uses Common Application essay questions.

Dartmouth University

Uses Common Application essay questions.

Davidson College

Uses Common Application essay questions plus supplemental short responses.

Short Responses – Please respond to each of the following on a separate sheet of paper.

- A. The Davidson community abides by an honor code that governs academic as well as personal life. Please refer to the Honor Code literature included with the application. As a prospective member of our community, discuss the benefits and drawbacks of the Davidson Honor Code and your role in it.
- B. What are the qualities and characteristics of Davidson that appeal to you, and what contributions do you anticipate making as a Davidson student?
- C. 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.

Dickinson College

Uses the Common Application essay questions plus supplemental essays.

In addition to curriculum, grades, activities and testing, the Admissions Committee looks for purpose, potential, and self-reflection. Your response to one of the following will be critical to our understanding of your candidacy. Please consider carefully this question and provide your answer on an additional page.

Dickinson College founder, statesman and physician Benjamin Rush wrote several essays on education for this new nation. Listed below are three of Rush's philosophies. **Choose one** and explain how that philosophy relates to your talents, goals and the reasons you chose to apply to Dickinson.

- Dickinson students shall pursue a *useful* education in the arts and sciences.
- Dickinson students shall become globally engaged citizen leaders.
- Dickinson students shall understand that they do not belong to themselves.

Drexel University

Uses the Common Application essay questions

All applicants must submit a 1–2 page essay online at

www.drexel.edu/apply/essay. We cannot accept essays submitted on paper.

Westphal College of Media Arts & Design applicants should relate their essay topic to their interest in their major. If you are applying to an accelerated degree program in the Westphal College, your essay topic should relate to your selected major and indicate why you are a good candidate for the program.

Accelerated degree applicants (except BA/BS/MD and BA/BS/JD): You should describe the factors that influenced your decision to pursue an accelerated degree in your chosen profession.

• **BA/BS/JD applicants** should refer to **www.drexel.edu/apply/bsjd** for specific essay topics.

• **BA/BS/MD applicants** should refer to the College of Medicine Supplemental Application at **www.drexel.edu/apply/bsmd** for specific essay topics.

• **BS/PhD applicants** must also describe any research involvement.

All other applicants: You may write about why you are interested in your choice of major or you may write on any subject you choose.

Duke University

Uses the Common Application essay questions plus supplemental essay.

Your answer to the following questions will be evaluated along with the essay you'll write as part of the Common Application or the Universal College Application. We encourage you to take advantage of this additional opportunity to let us know about your intellectual and personal interests. Please limit each answer as indicated.

(Required for Engineering Applicants Only) If you are applying to the Pratt School of Engineering, please discuss why you want to study engineering and why you would like to study at Duke. (Please limit your response to one to three paragraphs).

The following questions are **optional**—and yes, they truly are optional! If you choose not to answer them, your chance of admission will **not** be affected.

- **(For Arts and Sciences Applicants Only)** If you are applying to Trinity College of Arts and Sciences, please discuss why you consider Duke a good match for you. Is there something in particular at Duke that attracts you? (Please limit your response to one to three paragraphs.)
- If you have participated in any significant research activity outside of school, please provide a brief description and limit this response to one or two paragraphs.
- We seek to understand and appreciate you as an individual. If there is a parent, sibling, other relative, or friend of yours who you think could help us do that, we would be happy to receive a one-page letter from one of them. (It must be mailed to our office by January 2, 2010.) This optional information will be considered in our understanding of you as a person, but will not be formally evaluated as part of your application.

East Carolina University

No application essays are required or requested.

Elon University

Personal Essay – Required – Please submit an original essay of at least 250 words on a topic of your choice or on one of the topics listed below.

- Issues of critical importance to your community, the nation and the world are in the news everyday. Choose one issue you consider important and tell us why it is important. Be sure to describe any action you are taking to address this issue.
- Challenges are often the catalyst for change. What do you see as the greatest challenge for your generation and how are you working to meet that challenge?

Personal Statement – Optional – If there is anything about your background or personal experience that you feel would be helpful for the Admissions Committee to know as we evaluate your application, please attach a personal statement to this application (no more than one page, please).

Emory University

Uses the Common Application essay questions plus supplemental Short-Answer Question.

Many students decide to apply to Emory based on our size, location, reputation, and yes, the weather. Besides these valid reasons as a possible college choice, why is Emory University a particularly good match for you?

Florida State University

The essay is an important part of your application. It assists the University in learning about you as an individual, independent of your academic grade point average, test scores, and other objective data.

For almost one hundred years, the Latin words “Vires, Artes, Mores” have been the guiding philosophy behind Florida State University. Vires signifies strength of all kinds — moral, physical, and intellectual; Artes alludes to the beauty of intellectual pursuits as exemplified in skill, craft, or art; and Mores refers to character, custom, or tradition.

Describe how one or more of the values embodied in these concepts are reflected in your life. Your essay should be no longer than one page (500 words).

Fordham University

Uses the Common Application essay questions.

George Washington University

Uses the Common Application essay questions.

Georgetown University

Short Essay – In the space available discuss the significance to you of the school or summer activity in which you have been most involved.

Long Essay - Compose and attach on separate pages two brief essays (approximately one page each) on the topics given below.

All applicants – 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.

Applicants to Georgetown College – Please relate your interest in studying at Georgetown University to your goals. How do these thoughts relate to your chosen course of study? (If you are applying to major in the FFL or in a Science, please specifically address those interests.)

Applicants to the School of Nursing and Health Studies – Describe how your experiences or ideas shaped your decision to pursue a health profession and how these experiences or ideas may aid your future contribution to the field.

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

Applicants to the McDonough School of Business – Briefly describe the factors that have influenced your interest in studying business.

Georgia Institute of Technology

Must register online to apply before you can see the application.

Gettysburg College

Uses the Common Application essay questions plus supplemental short answer questions.

1. Gettysburg College students are engaged learners and “make a difference” both on and off campus through their academic and extracurricular activities. Describe a situation in which you have made a difference in your school or community and what you learned from that experience.
2. How did you become interested in Gettysburg College?

Additional Information (Optional) -

If you wish to provide additional information you haven’t already submitted with the Common Application supporting your candidacy for admission, please do so on this sheet. Examples of items you would like us to be more aware of in more detail could be: special interests or talents, unusual family background or circumstances, and academic goals.

Harvard College

Uses the Common Application essay questions plus optional supplemental essays. Occasionally, students feel that college application forms do not provide a sufficient opportunity to convey important information about themselves or their accomplishments. If there is something you would like us to know, please inform us in the essay section at the end of the document. If you wish to include an additional essay, you may do so.

Possible topics:

- Unusual circumstances in your life
- Travel or living experiences in other countries
- Books that have affected you the most
- An academic experience (course, project, paper or research topic) that has meant the most to you
- A list of the books you have read during the past twelve months

Hofstra University

Uses the Common Application essay questions or the Hofstra application personal statement.

Indiana University – Bloomington

Optional – you may submit a personal statement.

Johns Hopkins University

Students applying as freshmen to Johns Hopkins using the Common Application plus the Johns Hopkins supplement must submit both the Common Application essay and question 1 below.

1. Write a brief essay in which you respond to the following question. Johns Hopkins offers 50 majors across the schools of Arts & Sciences and Engineering. On this application, we ask you to identify one or two that you might like to pursue here. Why did you choose the way you did? If you are undecided, why

didn't you choose? (If any past courses or academic experiences influenced your decision, you may include them in your essay.)

Lehigh University

Uses the Common Application essay questions plus short answer supplemental questions.

- As you researched and visited colleges and universities, why did you decide to apply to Lehigh? Please give specific reasons. What contributions will you make during your time at Lehigh?
- In our ever changing society, people have defined "equity" and "community" in many different ways. How do you define these terms and what are the implications of equity and community for our 21st century society?

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

You must log-in to get to the application.

Miami University of Ohio

Uses the Common Application essay questions.

New York University

Uses the Common Application essay questions plus supplemental personal statements. If you apply online, you must use the online supplemental questions. If you use the paper Common Application, you must answer these questions.

1. If you had the opportunity to spend one day in New York City with a famous New Yorker, who would it be and what would you do? (Your New Yorker can be anyone – past or present, fictional or nonfictional – who is commonly associated with New York City; they do not necessarily have to have been born and raised in New York.)
2. Write a haiku, limerick, or short (eight lines or fewer) poem that best represents you.
3. In the year 2050, a movie is being made of your life. Please tell us the name of your movie and briefly summarize the story line.
4. Please tell us what led you to select your anticipated academic program and/or NYU school/college, and what interests you most about your intended discipline.

North Carolina State University

The application for undergraduate admission has a section for an optional personal statement, which is your opportunity to tell us anything you want us to know about you when we review your application for an admission decision. Typically, the personal statement lets you make your application stand out in ways that might not have been evident otherwise. Additionally, you can use this opportunity to explain anything in your academic record that may need clarification (for example, a poor academic semester in high school due to a family problem or injury). We do not require that you address a particular topic or question in your personal statement, and there is no required format or length.

Northeastern University

Uses the Common Application essay questions.

Northwestern University

Uses the Common Application essay questions and supplemental question.

What are the unique qualities of Northwestern – and of the specific undergraduate school to which you are applying – that make you want to attend the University? In what ways do you hope to take advantage of the qualities you have identified?

Oberlin College

Uses the Common Application essay questions plus supplemental essay.

ADDITIONAL QUESTION (please write a brief statement that addresses both of the following questions).

From what you have learned about Oberlin College, why have you chosen to apply?

What do you believe you will contribute to the Oberlin community, academically and personally?

Ohio State University

Type your response on a separate sheet of paper or use the space provided. Limit your response to 300 words. Why are *you* considering the Ohio State University?

Penn State University

You must log-in to get to the application.

Purdue University

Personal Statement (500 words or fewer): Choose one of the following topics.

- Describe how your college education will allow you to achieve personal or professional goals.
- What is the best advice you have ever received? Describe how it has helped you and how you have used it.
- If you had a second chance – the opportunity to do something over and do it differently – what would you choose to do over and what changes would you make?

Princeton University

Uses the Common Application essay questions plus supplemental essay or two of the following with the Princeton application.

In addition to the 500-word essay you have written for the Common Application, please select one of the following themes and write an essay of about 300 words in response.

Please do not repeat, in full or in part, the essay you wrote for the Common Application.

- Tell us about a person who influenced you in a significant way.
- Using the statement below as a jumping off point, tell us about an event or experience that helped you define one of your values or changed how you approach the world.

“Princeton in the Nation’s Service” was the title of a speech given by Woodrow Wilson on the 150th anniversary of the University. It became the unofficial Princeton motto and was expanded for the University’s 250th anniversary to “Princeton in the nation’s service and in the service of all nations.”

Woodrow Wilson, Princeton Class of 1879, served on the faculty and was Princeton’s president from 1902–1910.

- Using the quotation below as a jumping off point, tell us about an event or experience that helped you define one of your values or changed how you approach the world.

“Some questions cannot be answered./ They become familiar weights in the hand./ Round stones pulled from the pocket, unyielding and cool.”¹

Jane Hirshfield, poet, Princeton Class of 1973

- Using a favorite quotation from an essay or book you have read in the last three years as a jumping off 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 at the beginning of your essay.

Engineering Essay – If you are interested in pursuing a B.S.E. (Bachelor of Science in Engineering) degree, please writing an 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.

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Uses the Common Application essay questions plus supplemental essays.

Choose from the degree-specific guidelines below and include your completed essay with this application form. The essay should be no more than 1-2 pages.

Accelerated Programs (Law and Physician-Scientist) – State your reasons for aspiring to a career in law or medicine.

Architecture – State your reasons for choosing architecture as your profession.

Electronic Arts – Discuss your interests in the field of electronic arts and state how this is reflected in your portfolio.

Product Design and Innovation – State your reasons for choosing the interdisciplinary program in product design and innovation.

Rice University

Uses the Common Application essay questions.

Rochester Institute of Technology

Uses the Common Application essay questions or use the Rochester Institute of Technology application questions.

This brief statement helps to personalize your application, allowing us to become better acquainted with you. Please choose one of the options listed below (attach additional pages if needed):

- State your reasons for aspiring to a career in your chosen area of academic interest.
- Write a brief essay indicating your main reasons for applying to RIT.
- Describe a significant experience or achievement that has special meaning to you.
- Provide a copy of an essay you have already written for a school assignment (any subject).

Stanford University

Uses the Common Application essay questions plus Stanford supplemental essays. Candidates must respond to all three questions/topics. Responses must be at least 250 words but should not exceed the space provided in the Supplement.

1. Stanford students are widely known to possess a sense of intellectual vitality. Tell us about an idea or an experience you have had that you find intellectually engaging.
2. Virtually all of Stanford's undergraduates live on campus. What would you want your freshman year roommate to know about you? Tell us something about you that will help your roommate—and us—know you better.
3. Tell us what makes Stanford a good place for you.

Swarthmore University

Uses the Common Application essay questions plus supplemental essay. Please write a brief statement telling us why you have decided to apply to Swarthmore in particular.

Syracuse University

Uses the Common Application essay questions plus supplemental essays. Please answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper:

- What are your career and academic aspirations? (several sentences)
- What paid work experience have you had and what skills and/or knowledge did you gain?
- (Optional) At Syracuse University, our mission of Scholarship in Action extends beyond the classroom to include engagement opportunities with our campus community, the City of Syracuse, and locations across the globe. Tell us how your academic interest might intersect with real-world engagement through this mission. We encourage you to begin by visiting our home page at www.syr.edu for current examples of Scholarship in Action at Syracuse University.

Tufts University

Uses the Common Application essay questions plus supplemental questions. Think outside the box when you answer the following questions. Take a risk and go somewhere unexpected. Be serious if the moment calls for it but feel comfortable being playful if that suits you, too.

I. REQUIRED SHORT ANSWER (50 words)

Which aspects of Tufts' curriculum or undergraduate experience prompt your application? In short: "Why Tufts?"

II. REQUIRED SHORT ESSAYS (200 words)

1. There is a Quaker saying: “Let your life speak.” Describe the environment in which you were raised—your family, home, neighborhood or community—and how it influenced the person you are today.
2. Self-identity and personal expression take many forms. For example, music, clothing, politics, extra curricular interests, and ethnicity can each be a defining attribute. Do you surf or tinker? Are you a vegetarian poet who loves Ayn Rand? Do you prefer YouTube or test tubes? Are you a preppie or a Goth? Use the richness of your life to give us insight: what voice will you add to the Class of 2014?

III. OPTIONAL ESSAY

Tufts develops leaders who will address the intellectual and social challenges of the new century. Since critical thinking, creativity, practicality and wisdom are four elements of successful leadership, the following topics offer you an opportunity to illustrate these various characteristics. We invite you to choose one and prepare an essay of 250-400 words. (And it really is optional!)

1. It’s 1781 and the American colonies were just defeated by the British at Yorktown. Imagine history without the United State as we know it.
2. Are we alone?
3. French anthropologist Claude Levi-Strauss observed, “The scientist is not the person who give the right answers; he’s one who asks the right questions.” Using your knowledge of scientific and/or mathematical principles, identify a questions whose answer you seek and tell us how you might go about investigating it.
4. Kermit the Frog famously lamented “It’s not easy being green.” Do you agree?
5. OMG, LOL...Texting, cell phones, blogs, and tweets are defining the way we communicate. Facebook is the new playground while print newspapers are dying. As thumbs replace tongues, does this shift in human expression enhance or limit social interaction and dialogue? Why?
6. a. Use an 8.5 X 11 inch sheet of paper to create something. You can blueprint you future home, create a new product, draw a cartoon strip, design a costume or a theatrical set, compose a score, or do something entirely different. Let your imagination wander.

OR

b. Share a one minute video that says something about you. Upload it to YouTube or another easily accessible website, and give us the URL. What you do or say is totally up to you. (Unfortunately, we are unable to watch videos that come in any form other than a URL link.)
7. Write a short story using one of the following titles:

- a. House of Cards
 - b. The Poor Sport
 - c. Drama at the Prom
 - d. Election Night 2044
 - e. The Getaway
8. People face challenges everyday. Some make decisions that force them beyond their comfort levels. Maybe you have a political, social, or cultural viewpoint that is not shared by the rest of your school, family, or community. Did you find the courage to create a better opportunity for yourself or others? Were you able to find the voice to stand up for something you passionately supported? How did you persevere when the odds were against you?

Tulane University

Uses the Universal Application personal statement – Please write an essay (500 words or less) that demonstrates your ability to develop and communicate your thoughts. Some ideas include: a person you admire; a life-changing experience; or your viewpoint on a particular current event.

University of Chicago

Uses the Common Application essay questions plus supplemental essays.

The University of Chicago has long been renowned for its provocative essay questions. We think of them as an opportunity for students to tell us about themselves, their tastes, and their ambitions. They can be approached with utter seriousness, complete fancy, or something in between.

Each year we email newly admitted and current College students and ask them for essay topics. We receive several hundred responses, many of which were eloquent, intriguing, or downright wacky.

Essay Option 1

How did you get caught? (Or not caught, as the case may be.)

Essay Option 2

The late-eighteenth-century popular philosopher and cultural critic George Lichtenberg wrote, "Just as we outgrow a pair of trousers, we outgrow acquaintances, libraries, principles, etc. at times before they're worn out and at times-and this is worst of all-before we have new ones." Write an essay about something you have outgrown, perhaps before you had a replacement-a friend, a political philosophy, a favorite author, or anything that has had an influence on you. What, if anything, has taken its place?

Essay Option 3

"Any law that uplifts human personality is just. Any law that degrades human personality is unjust," wrote the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., in his "Letter from Birmingham Jail." What is "human personality?" Is it obvious what uplifts and what degrades it? Can law be justified on the basis of it? We want to hear your thoughts on justice as it relates to this "human personality."

Essay Option 4

From game theory to Ultimate Frisbee to the great Chicago Scavenger Hunt, we at the University of Chicago take games seriously. We bet you do, too. Even if "just a game," sport, play, and other kinds of games seem to share at the very least an insistence that we take seriously a set of rules entirely peculiar to the circumstance of the game. You might say, in order to play a game we must take it seriously. Think playfully-or play thoughtfully-about games: how they distract us or draw us into the world, create community and competition, tease us and test us with stakes both set apart from and meaningful to everyday life. Don't tell us about The Big Game; rather, tell us about players and games.

Essay Option 5

In the spirit of adventurous inquiry, pose a question of your own. If your prompt is original and thoughtful then you should have little trouble writing a great essay. 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 Colorado – Boulder

The personal essay is **required**. You are strongly encouraged to submit your personal essay as part of your interactive application, but if you choose to mail it in separately, be sure to include your full legal name and birth date at the top of each page. Applications without essays are considered incomplete and will not be reviewed.

Your personal essay - consisting of responses to two topics - is the best way for us to learn about you as an individual and to evaluate your academic performance within an appropriate context. Please remember that there are no "correct" answers to these questions - your responses should reflect the unique aspects and experiences of your life. Consider reflecting on challenges you've overcome, your family or cultural heritage, your academic or cocurricular achievements, or specific moments that helped to define your character.

Essay A (required, maximum 500 words) - The University of Colorado at Boulder's Flagship 2030 strategic plan promotes exceptional teaching, research, scholarship, creative works, and service distinguishing us as a premier university. We strive to foster a diverse and inclusive community for all that engages each member in opportunities for academic excellence, leadership, and a deeper understanding of the world in which we live. Given the statement above, how do you think you could enrich our diverse and inclusive community and what are your hopes for your college experience?

Essay B (required, choose topic 1, 2, or 3, maximum 250 words)

1. Who are the influential people in your life? How have they contributed to your development as a person?

2. Briefly discuss how your family, school, neighborhood, and background have impacted your educational goals and aspirations.
3. Discuss any events or special circumstances that have affected your academic record, as well as any adversities you have overcome.

University of Delaware

Uses the Common Application essay questions or University application.

THE PATH TO PROMINENCE

With roots reaching back to 1743, we are a community of 16,000 undergraduates, 3,500 graduate students, 1,200 faculty, and 135,000 alumni who excel in diverse fields and hail from all corners of the globe. Although we are a diverse community, we embrace common goals and values that are reflected in the questions below. Respond to the one that resonates most deeply with you. Please include your name and UD ID number at the top of your essay.

A. We are an engaged academic community.

While a University of Delaware education ensures that intellectual curiosity and a passion for learning become habits of the mind, our long tradition of public service also produces graduates who have a positive impact on their communities. Have you discovered your passion for a particular subject or a cause? Tell us about it.

B. We are a diverse and global community.

Our students come from all parts of the globe and reflect many different cultural and religious heritages. How has your own heritage shaped you? What would other students learn from you, and what do you look forward to learning from them?

C. We are a community respectful of the environment.

The University of Delaware leads the way in developing technological, social, political, and cultural solutions to the challenges facing our planet today and in the future. In what ways are you a steward of the environment? How will you assist the University in finding solutions to significant environmental issues?

University of Florida

The Personal Essay

Your essay is a very important part of your application. What you provide helps the university know you as an individual, independent of grades, test scores and other objective data. Please submit one essay. Remember to keep within the 400-500 word maximum length.

In the space provided, please write a concise narrative in which you describe a meaningful event, experience or accomplishment in your life and how it will affect your college experience or your contribution to the UF campus community. You may want to reflect on your family, your school or community activities, or your involvement in areas outside of school.

University of Georgia

In the space provided or as a separate attachment labeled "UGA Short Essays," please address each of the following four topics in responses of 150-200 words each. Prior to

writing your short essays, we strongly encourage you to read the UGA Faculty Statement on Diversity, which is available on our Web site. Please be sure to include your full name and date of birth on each page of the attachment, as well as the essay topic with each of your responses.

1. Choose an intellectual or creative opportunity that you have enjoyed and highlight how you have grown personally because of the experience.
2. "*Each friend represents a world in us, a world possibly not born until they arrive, and it is only by this meeting that a new world is born.*" Anais Nin
From freshman year to now, we know that you have interacted with a number of people in your high school who are different from you and have affected who you are now. Tell us about one such relationship, with a focus on the details of your interaction, not the person.
3. Tell us an interesting or amusing story about yourself that you have not already shared in your application.
4. "*Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and cannot remain silent.*" Victor Hugo
If someone were to look at your music collection right now, they would probably know a great deal about who you are. Individuals are drawn to music, and each song conveys something about that person. Select a musical piece to be your theme song.

University of Maryland

The college admission process is an effort to uncover the aspects of your personality and experience that fit well with the University of Maryland community. When considering your approach to the following essay questions, think deeply about your answers, making them creative and succinct. We hope that you will use this opportunity as a time for self-reflection and intellectual meditation.

Please choose two of the following essay questions to answer. Each essay should be no more than 300 words. Include the questions you choose at the start of each essay.

1. All first-year students at the University of Maryland read one book together as part of our First Year Book Program. This year's book, *What Is The What* by Dave Eggers, is the fictional account of a Sudanese refugee's search for home and self. Choose from one of the following two options to write your essay:
 - a. If you were to write a novel about a fictional character based on real events, past or present, who would you write about and why? How do you relate to this character?

OR

 - b. Select your own book for the First Year Book Program and tell us why you want to share it classmates in the incoming class. Why does this book have personal meaning for you?
2. The University of Maryland prides itself on being an inclusive community that celebrates differences, brings together people from the widest array of backgrounds and perspectives, and recognizes that excellence cannot be achieved

- without diversity. What do you look forward to gaining from the diversity of the University of Maryland community?
3. One definition of sacrifice is “to surrender or give up, or permit injury or disadvantage to, for the sake of something else.” Describe a time when you put the significant needs of someone else ahead of your own.
 4. The former king of Bhutan, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, has expressed a philosophy of “Gross National Happiness” as a measurement of the success of the country. What is your personal philosophy? Tell us why you believe it could be used to evaluate a country’s success.
 5. Write your own question and respond to it. Please be sure to tell us why you think this essay represents you well. (Your question will not be included in the essay word count.)

University of Massachusetts – Amherst

Uses the Common Application essay questions.

University of Miami

Uses the Common Application essay questions or University of Miami essay.

Please write an essay according to the instructions below. Your essay or personal statement is an important and integral part of the application process. Your academic credentials and list of achievements give us information about part of your life, but your essay will provide us with information about you that is not requested elsewhere in the University of Miami Application for Admission. On a separate sheet, please write an essay (300-400 words) about one of the topics listed below:

- A. Evaluate a significant experience or achievement that has special meaning to you.
- B. Discuss some issue of personal, local or national concern and its importance to you.
- C. Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you, and describe that influence.
- D. Explain the role that academic integrity has played in your life.

University of Michigan

Short Answer Questions

Part I - All applicants must answer the following question. Type or print your answer on a separate sheet of paper. Make sure your name and the question text are on each sheet of paper you include. (approximately 250 words).

“We know that diversity makes us a better university – better for learning, for teaching, and for conducting research.” (U-M President Mary Sue Coleman). Share an experience through which you have gained respect for intellectual, social or cultural differences. Comment on how your personal experiences and achievements would contribute to the diversity of the University of Michigan.

Part II - All applicants must answer one of the following questions. Please answer only the question for the school or college to which you are applying. Type or print your answers on a separate sheet of paper. Make sure your name and the question text are on each sheet of paper you include. (approximately 250 words)

School of Art & Design – If you were going to reconfigure the human species, discuss some of the current attributes you would retain, and some that you would not retain.

College of Engineering – Please describe your interests and aspirations in engineering. What experiences have influenced you?

Interarts Performance What experiences and aspirations have influenced your decision to apply to the University of Michigan's Interarts Performance program? Discuss the attributes of this interdisciplinary program which make it the best choice for you.

Kinesiology – Why is Kinesiology the right choice for you? What do you plan to study and how does that tie in with your career aspirations?

College of Literature, Science and the Arts – What led you to choose the area(s) of academic interest that you have listed on your application to the University of Michigan? If you are undecided, what areas are you most interested in, and why?

School of Music, Theatre & Dance – As you prepare to pursue a career in music, theatre, or dance, what are your thoughts on the relationship between the arts and today's society? How relevant has your art been to your community and you?

School of Nursing – Describe why you want to be a nurse. Include your specific experiences and abilities related to health care that will make you a good candidate for the nursing profession. Also describe your understanding of nursing's role in health care and how you see yourself embodying these roles.

Essay

All applicants must answer one of the following questions, either A, B, or C (approximately 500 words).

- A. Describe a setback that you have faced. How did you resolve it? How did the outcome affect you? If something similar happened in the future, how would you react?
- B. Discuss an issue of local concern. Why is this issue important to you? How do you think it should be addressed?
- C. Tell us about a book you have read that you found especially challenging, stimulating, or provocative. Explain why it made an impact on you.

Preferred Admission Supplemental Essay

Only applicants who have applied for a Preferred Admission Program. In addition to the essay above, please answer only the question for the school or college to which you are applying. Type or print your answers on a separate sheet of paper. Make sure your name and the question text are on each sheet of paper you include. (approximately 500 words).

Alfred Taubman College of Architecture & Urban Planning, School of Dentistry, School of Education, School of Information, College of Pharmacy, and School of Social Work – For what reasons do you wish to be considered for Preferred Admission to your school or college of interest? What are your career goals and how will Preferred Admission to your school or college help you achieve these goals?

Stephen M. Ross School of Business – Assume you would like to start an organization or project in your community right now to accomplish a particular goal. 1) Describe your organization or project, briefly identify why it is important to you, and explain the steps you would take to start it. 2) How, specifically, might your education at U-M and the

Ross School of Business affect your approach to the same project if you were to start it after you graduated from college?

School of Education – Based on your experience and desired goals, tell us why you wish to be considered for preferred admission to the School of Education. What impact do you hope to have on the field of education?

University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill

Because we cannot meet all of our applicants personally, please help us get to know you better through the following essays. Feel free to be as serious or as humorous as you would like; feel free to write about something other than yourself if you feel that, by doing so, you'll help us gain a better understanding of who you are, how you think, and what you might contribute to the University community. Please bear in mind that your essays are very important and will be evaluated not only for admission, but also for possible selection for the Honors Program and merit-based scholarships. Your essays provide a valuable opportunity for you to demonstrate qualities such as intellectual curiosity and the ability to think creatively, both of which are important criteria for consideration for these programs.

Short Answer Questions (Required)

Complete each of the following sentences about yourself. Don't think too long or too hard; just help us get to know you better. Your responses could be as short as one word or as long as about 20 words –not longer, please.

- The last book I read outside of class was
- It would surprise my friends to know that I
- If I could travel anywhere in time or space, either real or imagined, I'd go to
- The form of communication that I'd most like to ban from existence is
- The question I would most like to have answered is
- My favorite random fact
- My most treasured possession is

Essays (Required)

You'll respond to two of the prompts below. One of your essays should be short (about 250 words), and one essay should be longer (about 500 words).

1. People find many ways to express their inner world. Some write novels; others paint, perform, or debate; still others design elegant solutions to complex mathematical problems. How do you express your inner world, and how does the world around you respond?
2. It's easy to identify with the hero—the literary or historical figure who saves the day. Have you ever identified with a figure who wasn't a hero—a villain or a scapegoat, a bench-warmer or a bit player? If so, tell us why this figure appealed to you—and if your opinion changed over time, tell us about that, too.
3. Carolina students conduct original research and work to solve problems in almost every imaginable field. If you could spend a semester researching a specific topic or problem, what would you choose and why?
4. After your long and happy life, your family must choose no more than a dozen words to adorn your headstone. What do you hope they choose, and why?

5. We tend to spend our time doing the things we know we do well—running because we’re good runners or painting because we’re talented artists. Tell us about a time when you tried something for which you had no talent. How did it go?
6. What’s the best advice you’ve ever received? What’s the best you’ve ever given?
7. If you have written an essay for another school’s application that you really like, feel free to use it as your longer essay for us. Please be sure to tell us (a) what essay you are answering and (b) why you think this essay represents you well (your explanation will not be included in the essay word count).

University of North Carolina – Greensboro

While not required, essays, letters of recommendation, etc., may be considered as a part of the application review.

University of North Carolina – Wilmington

Every essay is carefully reviewed by the admission committee for content, clarity, mechanics and effort. Essays may be an important factor in distinguishing admissible candidates within the applicant pool. Please answer the following question thoughtfully in 300-500 words. Answer in the space below, or attach a separate sheet with your full name and date of birth.

- Reflecting on your personal and educational goals, please write about how you believe UNC Wilmington will allow you to grow as a student and as a person.

University of Notre Dame

Uses the Common Application essay questions plus supplemental essays.

Essay - Please write a response (250 words minimum) to **one** of the following topics.

1. The Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., President of the University of Notre Dame, said in his Inaugural Address that, “If we are afraid to be different from the world, how can we make a difference in the world?” In what way do you feel you are different from your peers, and how will this shape your contribution to the Notre Dame community?
2. Discovery may be the truest form of learning. Notre Dame is a place where your academic passions will be engaged and encouraged through undergraduate research. Describe an academic project that you have already pursued in high school, and tell us how this project inspires you to engage in further discovery.
3. In a homily during his visit to the United States, Pope Benedict XVI stated, “Today’s celebration is more than an occasion of gratitude for graces received. It is also a summons to move forward with firm resolve to use wisely the blessings of freedom, in order to build a future of hope for coming generations.” How will a Notre Dame education enable you to answer the call to “use wisely the blessings of freedom, in order to build a future of hope” for others in your own way?

Final Note (Optional)

Why are you interested in attending Notre Dame? Your comments should not exceed 150 words.

University of Pennsylvania

Uses the Common Application essay questions plus supplemental essay.

Required – Benjamin Franklin established the Union Fire Company, the Library Company of Philadelphia, the American Philosophical Society, Pennsylvania Hospital, and, of course, the charity school that evolved into the University of Pennsylvania. As they served the larger community of Philadelphia, each institution in turn formed its own community. Which of the academic communities and social communities that now comprise the University of Pennsylvania are most interesting to you and how will you contribute to them and to the larger Penn community?

Optional – You have just completed your 300-page autobiography. Please submit page 217.

University of Pittsburgh

If you want your application review to be based on more than just your high school record and SAT/ACT scores, we strongly recommend that you submit any supplemental information that you feel will help the committee get to know you better. The Personal Essay is optional. If you decide to complete the optional essay question, you can choose one of the topics suggested below or select a topic that reflects something about you and your interests.

- A. Write about something of particular interest to you – whether that be creative, fantastic, scientific, ethical, personal, political, etc.
- B. If you are interested in the arts or feel you have a special skill or talent, tell us what you do and/or enclose photos or slides of your work. Likewise, if you're involved in sports, student activities, community service, or work, or if a particular person has influenced your life, tell us about it. Note any special awards you've received or leadership roles you've played.
- C. Imagine you're on the admissions or scholarship committees. Tell us something about yourself that isn't apparent from your academic records – something that will give us insight about as an individual and might help in the committee's decision.
- D. How has cultural diversity, or the lack of it, impacted your life so far? What is your view or opinion of how diversity fits into your education? *Or* The University of Pittsburgh is an institution rich in cultural and ethnic diversity. In what ways do you think this would be of benefit to you as a young, developing adult, and in what ways can you contribute to this?
- E. Elaborate on one or more extracurricular activities. Please share experiences and participation in organizations, whether affiliated with or outside of school, that you feel will help the committee to know you better. This could include sports, service to others, work, the arts, or other activities. A description of your experiences over time and how they have affected you as an individual is more helpful to the committee than a list. Include years of involvement, nature of position, any leadership roles, and/or title, if applicable.
- F. Some factors that may be taken into consideration in the admissions review are listed below. If any of the following pertain to you, you may wish to address the issue in your essay or as an addendum to your essay. You are: not a native speaker of English; first generation in the family going to college; coming from a

- single-parent home; home schooled; or an early graduate (students graduating from high school in three years) or early applicant (i.e., planning skip the senior year of high school).
- G. If you have experienced special challenges or adversities that you feel should be taken into consideration, please let the committee know.
- H. Have you had an international or travel experience that has affected you? Describe it.

University of Rochester

Uses the Common Application essay questions plus supplemental essays.

- What makes the University of Rochester a good fit for you? In answering, identify your sources of information, including any conversations you've had with Rochester faculty, staff, students, or alumni.
- Rochester students represent many different points of view. Each student constructs an independent study and research plan. Describe what you will contribute to Rochester's diversity of ideas, experiences, and identities. If you can, incorporate a positive past experience where you chose your own learning path, or a negative experience where you wanted to exercise more independence.

University of South Carolina

You must log-in to get to application.

University of Southern California

You must log-in to get to application.

University of Tennessee

Each fall, UT Knoxville admits a freshman class using a competitive admission process that primarily considers the applicant's experience and preparation in academic areas, but also considers many other individual factors through holistic review. All applications receive a thorough individual reading, and information provided in the personal statement is critical in the decision making process. All applicants may include a Personal Statement with their application. The middle 50 percent of the fall 2009 admitted class had test score ranges of 1110–1290 (SAT Critical Reading + Math) or 25–29 (ACT) and a core high school GPA range of 3.43–3.99. If either your test scores fall below a 25 ACT or 1110 SAT, or if your core GPA falls below a 3.43, you should include the Personal Statement and consider requesting a letter of recommendation from your counselor and/or a teacher. Without a personal statement, the Holistic Review Committee will be less able to fully consider your potential for success at UT. Please note that 57 percent of applicants who were offered admission for fall of 2009 had either less than a 25 ACT or less than a 3.43 core GPA.

What should be included in the Personal Statement? If you were having a personal interview with members of UT's admissions staff, what information would you want them to know about you? Of particular importance are your academic interests and achievements. In addition, information concerning your involvement in school and community, importance personal experiences, how you might bring diversity to campus. Awards and recognitions, special talents, obstacles overcome, and other aspect of your

background and experiences will be considered in the individualized review of your application. This is what you should share in your personal statement.

Vanderbilt University

Uses the Common Application essay questions.

Villanova University

Uses the Common Application essay questions plus supplemental essay.

As part of your Preliminary Application for Undergraduate Admission for the Class of 2013, Villanova requires that you submit a Villanova essay, of at least one typed page, for our review. The essay is an important part of your application as it provides us with an opportunity to gain more insights into your candidacy. We thought that it would be helpful to provide you with some guidance on writing an effective, thoughtful and well-crafted writing sample which addresses our Required Essay Question.

One of the core values of Villanova, as an Augustinian university founded on the teachings of St. Augustine, is that student and faculty learn from each other. As you imagine yourself as a member of the Villanova community, what is one lesson that you have learned in your life that you will want to share with others?

Wake Forest University

Uses the Common Application essay questions plus supplemental questions

Help us to learn more about you by answering these questions in the space provided.

- Who are you and who will you be at Wake Forest?
- What cultural tradition or event would you like to experience?
- What outrages you?
- When did the arts change the way you perceive the world?
- Make a rational argument for a position you do not personally support. For clarity, please state your true opinion first, then argue the opposite.
- Give us your “Top Ten” list.
- What idea most fascinates you?
- If college did not exist, I would pursue...
- Nothing bores me more than
- Title your autobiography.

Washington University in St. Louis

Uses the Common Application essay questions.

West Virginia University

No application essay is required or requested.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI)

Uses the Common Application essay questions or WPI application personal statement. Please use additional sheets of paper to supply us with any other information that you believe will help us to know you better. This information may be, but is not limited to, a personal history or statement, an explanation of past academic performance, a creative work, a description of an important event in your life, or an essay on why you believe

you are suited to WPI's distinctive academic program. Please limit your response to not more than 500 words. **Please be sure to include your name, address, and date of birth on these additional sheets.**

Yale University

Uses the Common Application essay questions plus supplemental essay and short takes. You have already told us about your self in the Common Application, with its list of activities, the Short Answer, and the Personal Statement. While we leave the topic of your second essay entirely up to you, try telling us something about yourself that you believe we cannot learn elsewhere in your application. Please limit yourself to fewer than 500 words.

Short Takes – Please respond in 25 words or fewer to each of the questions below.

- What would you do with a free afternoon?
- Recall a compliment you received that you especially value. What was it? From whom did it come?
- What two qualities do you admire most in other people?
- What do you wish you were better at being or doing?
- If you were choosing students to form a Yale class, what question would you ask here that we have not?