

**Virginia Colleges/Universities
2010-2011 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.

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 us to know about you as we make our admission decision.

Christopher Newport University

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 plus supplemental optional essay or submission - Beyond your impressive academic credentials and extracurricular accomplishments, what else makes you unique and colorful? Provide us with some limited measure of your personality. We know that 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.

Eastern Mennonite College

No essays or personal statements are required or requested.

Emory & Henry College

The primary factor we weigh is the level on consistency you have achieved in your academic and co-curricular activities, in an out of the classroom. Most students face challenges during their high school years – both academic and personal – and quite often these challenges can explain an unexpected grade, a test score that is low but a GPA that is high (and vice versa), or other “inconsistencies.” At Emory and Henry, we place great weight on how you overcame challenges in the classroom, on the playing field, during a service trip with your youth group – any number of things that too often have no “place” on the application itself. While an essay or personal statement is not required of the application process, we encourage you to write about your challenges and success stories and make that part of your application portfolio. Some students are more comfortable sharing this face-to-face during a personal visit to campus. You decide – we simply want to get to know you beyond the “paperwork!” Please use the space below, or attach a separate document to this application. We also gladly accept the SAT or ACT Writing Test.

Ferrum College

No essays or personal statements are required or requested.

George Mason University

Personal Statement - All freshman applicants must submit a “Personal Statement” of 150-500 words (maximum) that highlights your leadership achievements or significant service contributions to your high school or community. Students who apply online must submit the statement online when prompted during the application process. Only students who submit paper applications may submit a statement in paper form.

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

Uses the Common Application essay questions.

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 one of the following topics: Describe a personal moral or ethical dilemma and how it impacted your life, or an autobiographical essay.

Hollins University

Uses the Common Application essay questions.

If the Hollins University application is used:

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. Provide an essay of no more than 250 words on the following: Describe how your perspectives of life and morality will enable you to contribute to Liberty University's mission.

Longwood University

In at least a paragraph for each, complete the following **personal statements**. (You need not use our specific wording.) The Admissions Committee will evaluate your **creativity, insightfulness, and writing style**. No applicants have been judged negatively because their statements were too long. However, some applicants have been judged negatively because their statements were too short! These statements may also be used in the selection process for honors and scholarships.

1. The accomplishment of which I am the proudest is...
2. A circumstance or obstacle about which the Admissions Committee should know is... I overcame it by...
3. Earning a college degree is important to me because...
4. (Transfer students only) I want to transfer to Longwood University because...

Lynchburg College

Strongly recommended: 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 11th or 12th 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.

Personal Statement: This is where you make your first impression. Make it a good one! We want to know who you are and why you want to come to R-MC.

Roanoke College

Although optional, we strongly encourage you to submit a personal statement. We are interested in learning more about you as a person beyond your grades and test scores. This may be included on your application under "additional information."

Saint Paul's 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 Saint 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

Must log into application first.

Sweet Briar College

Uses the Common Application essay questions and short answer questions or Sweet Briar application essay and short answer questions.

Essay: Choose one from the list below (suggested length is 2-3 typed pages)

1. If you could invite any four women (alive or from history) to dinner, who would they be and why?
2. 50 years from now your local newspaper writes an article about you, your accomplishments, your life. Write that article.
3. Tell us what you do for fun and why that activity is enjoyable/meaningful for you (what makes it fun for you).
4. Identify a significant choice you've made or ethical dilemma you've faced and share with us its impact on you.

5. Describe for us something you've kept for years and why that thing has specific meaning for you.

Short Answer:

How did you first learn about Sweet Briar?

What is the most important factor in your general college decision?

What excites you most about attending Sweet Briar?

What is your greatest concern as you consider attending Sweet Briar?

University of Mary Washington

Uses the Common Application essay questions plus supplemental questions (same on the University of Mary Washington application)

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 influence your or guided your actions.

University of Richmond

Uses the Common Application essay questions plus supplemental essay.

- Tell us about an experience in which you left your comfort zone. How did this experience change you?

University of Virginia

Uses the Common Application essay questions plus supplemental essays

1. Answer the question that corresponds to the school you selected. Limit your answer to 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?

Engineering: Discuss experiences that led you to choose an engineering education at U.Va. and the role that scientific curiosity plays in your life.

Architecture: What led you to apply to the School of Architecture?

Nursing: Discuss experiences that led you to choose the School of Nursing.

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

- What is your favorite word and why?
- Describe the world you come from and how that world shaped who you are.
- Discuss something you secretly like but pretend not to, or vice versa.
- “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.

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

Personal statement (required of all applicants)

Tell us more about you and why you are considering VCU. Write only in the space provided

Essay (required of all students applying for scholarship consideration)

• **Scholarship applicants** must write a one- to two-page essay on one of the following topics:

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, you should discuss your educational goals, including why you wish to study your chosen major.

• **School of the Arts film (cinema) B.A. program applicants** must submit two essays in addition to the required personal statement. For additional information, visit www.vcu.edu/arts/apply.

Virginia Intermont University

No essays or personal statements are required or requested.

Virginia Military Institute

Although an essay is not required, it is encouraged. The applicant may wish to submit a one-page essay on a topic of their choice or a graded essay from a high school class.

Virginia State University

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

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 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

Uses the Common Application essay questions or Virginia Wesleyan application essays. 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 or Washington and Lee application essay. The essay section is an opportunity to help us become acquainted with you in ways different from courses, grades, test scores, and other objective data. It enables you to demonstrate your ability to organize thoughts and express yourself. With this objective, please write an essay about one of the topics listed below and enclose it with your application.

- What is the best advice you ever received? Did you follow it?
- Evaluate a significant experience or achievement that has meaning for you.
- Discuss some issue of personal, local, national, or international concern. Describe its importance to you and the ways in which you have engaged in or explored this issue.