

Why Essay Questionnaire



Using research from school websites, information from in-person school visits or interviews and reflection on your own academic goals, write or type your answers to the following questions in the space provided below. (Fill out one questionnaire for each school.) Answer as accurately and in as much detail as possible. Incorporating the exact names of majors, professors, school newspapers and other details is crucial when trying to convey to a school why you would like to attend their institution in particular, so please pay close attention. Also, when in doubt, write more. The more information you bring to the table, the more tools you will have to craft robust, meaningful essays.

Name of School:

1. What is your intended major called? (The same major might have a different name at each school, so please research carefully.)

2. What school/department is it located in?

3. What is the name of the school newspaper?

4. What is the name of the school's sports team/field/mascot?

5. What is the name of the student center?



6. Does the school have any special traditions you can identify? If so, what do they entail?

7. Name three courses (not introductory classes or prerequisites) that you are especially excited to take within your major. Make sure to copy the name of the courses exactly. Write a few sentences about why you are interested in each of those classes in particular. Do not copy directly from the class description—admissions WILL notice.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

8. Name three courses (not introductory classes or prerequisites) that you are especially excited to take OUTSIDE OF your major. Make sure to copy the name of the courses exactly. Write a few sentences about why you are interested in each of those classes in particular. Again, do not copy directly from the class description.



a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

9. Identify two professors who seem interesting, famous, particularly well accomplished, or popular with students. Name them (be careful about spelling), and also write down the name of the course/courses they teach and why you think it would be exciting to study with these particular educators.

a. _____

b. _____



10. Name three clubs or extracurricular activities that tie into your major or current high school curriculum/activities. They can be honor societies, professional associations, or nonprofits, but please make sure at least one of the three is service-oriented. Describe in a few sentences why you are interested in these organizations.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____



11. Name two activities/extracurriculars that are NOT related to your major. Are they sports? Art clubs? Culture clubs? What else do you want to take advantage of on campus? Describe each activity in a few sentences.

a. _____

b. _____

12. Look for any research or internship opportunities that are available to you and describe why you would want to participate in them (if applicable)!



13. Is there a study abroad program? What is it called? Are you interested in participating? If so, where and why?

14. Did you visit the school? If so, what was the name of your session or tour guide? What was the date of your visit? Did you meet anyone else important during your visit, such as a professor or department head? (Specific names are helpful.) What was your experience like? How did you feel when walking around on campus? What did you notice?



15. Do you know any alumni of the school? Are you a legacy? Did any family members go to the university? If so, jot down the basic details of your relationship to them, when they attended, and what they studied.

16. Are there other miscellaneous details you can think of that might be important to include? What does this school offer that no other schools have? Without thinking about it too hard, why do you really want to go to this school?

