

2016 Palmer Scholars Application Preview

Personal Essays (8 of 10)

The two required essays below are perhaps the most important part of your application. Content as well as spelling, grammar and punctuation are considered. Please adhere to the posted word limit for each essay. We strongly recommend that you compose your essays in a word processing program such as Word, and then copy and paste the text into the windows provided below. Double-spacing, italics, and other formatting will be lost, but this will not affect the evaluation of your application. Be sure that you review the content after pasting to confirm that it is complete.

Give these essays your very best effort, presenting yourself in standard, formal English. As you prepare your responses, consider the following:

- *Begin with an outline*
- *Develop the key elements of your essay*
- *Identify how you will expound upon each of those key elements*
- *Write multiple drafts*
- *Proofread, proofread, PROOFREAD!*
- *Have others proofread your essay*
- *Read out loud one last time before submitting*

If you are not ready to respond to the essays now, you can continue to the next page, but you will not be able to submit your application without returning to submit a response to both questions below.

ESSAY 1: Personal Statement

The personal statement should be a comprehensive narrative essay that in 500 - 750 words outlines significant aspects of your academic and personal history, particularly those that provide context for your academic achievements and educational choices.

The personal statement is our best means of getting to know you and your best means of creating a context for your academic performance. When you write your personal statement, tell us about those aspects of your life that are not apparent from your academic record. Tell us about the experiences that don't show up on your transcript: a character-defining moment you've experienced, the cultural awareness you've developed, a challenge you've faced, or a personal hardship or barrier you've overcome.

As you compose your essay, be sure that it addresses the following elements:

1. Academic Elements

Academic History

Tell us about your academic career to date, describing your performance, educational path and choices. Explain any situations that may have had a significant positive or negative impact on your academic progress and/or curricular choices. If you transferred multiple times, had a significant break in your education, or changed career paths, explain.

College Major and/or Career Goals

Tell us about your intended major and career aspirations. Are you prepared to enter your intended major at this time? If not, describe your plans for preparing for the major. What led you to choose this major? If you are still undecided, why? What type of career are you most likely to pursue after finishing your education?

2. Personal Elements

Cultural Understanding

Thoughtfully describe the ways in which culture had an impact on your life and what you have learned about yourself and society as a result. How has your own cultural history enriched and/or challenged you? Note that culture may be defined broadly. Cultural understanding is often drawn from the ethnic background, customs, values, and ideas of a person's immediate family, community, and/or social environment in which they live.

Educational Challenges or Personal Hardships (if applicable)

Describe any personal or imposed challenges or hardships you have overcome in pursuing your education. Examples might include a serious illness; a disability; being the first generation in your family to attend college; significant financial hardship; or responsibilities associated with balancing work, family and school.

Community or Volunteer Service (if applicable)

Describe your community or volunteer service, including leadership, awards, or increased levels of responsibility.

Experiential Learning (if applicable)

Describe your involvement in research, artistic endeavors, and work (paid or volunteer), as they have contributed to your academic, career or personal goals.

Adapted from the University of Washington admissions application.

Personal Statement (750-1000 words)

If you are not ready to respond to this essay now, you can continue to the next page, but you will not be able to submit your application without returning to submit a response to this question.

0/1000 words

ESSAY 2: Describe a problem you want to solve in your community and how your post-secondary education will help you solve that problem.

Palmer Scholars prides itself on investing in the future of Pierce County. One of our values is to not only give back to our community but also inspire our scholars to play a meaningful role in the future of the South Sound region. **Describe a problem you want to solve in your community and how your post-secondary education would help you to solve this problem?** You should clearly indicate what the problem you want to solve is and why. Instead of providing a solution to the problem, tell us about the steps you would take to *potentially* reach a solution. A good response should show evidence of self-awareness and depth of thought. Please provide a detailed and thorough response to this question in a maximum of 350 words.

Consider the following when crafting your response:

- How this problem resonates with your values, identities, hardships, etc.
- Goals you will need to make for yourself to achieve your end result
- What potential barriers might hinder your ability to achieve your goals?
- How might you address one or more of the barriers that might hinder your ability to achieve your goal?

Describe a problem you want to solve in your community and how your post-secondary education will help you solve the problem. (350 words)

If you are not ready to respond to this essay now, you can continue to the next page, but you will not be able to submit your application without returning to submit a response to this question.

0/350 words