

Common Application Essay Questions 2013-14

Instructions. The essay demonstrates your ability to write clearly and concisely on a selected topic and helps you distinguish yourself in your own voice. *What do you want the readers of your application to know about you apart from courses, grades, and test scores?* Choose the option that best helps you answer that question and write an essay of no more than 650 words, using the prompt to inspire and structure your response. Remember: 650 words is your limit, not your goal. Use the full range if you need it, but don't feel obligated to do so. (The application won't accept a response shorter than 250 words.)

- Some students have a background or story that is so central to their identity that they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
- Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what lessons did you learn?
- Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?
- Describe a place or environment where you are perfectly content. What do you do or experience there, and why is it meaningful to you?
- Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal, that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.

University of Michigan Supplement Essays

Essay #1 (Required for all applicants. Approximately 250 words)

Everyone belongs to many different communities and/or groups defined by (among other things) shared geography, religion, ethnicity, income, cuisine, interest, race, ideology, or intellectual heritage. Choose one of the communities to which you belong, and describe that community and your place within it.

Essay #2 (Required for all applicants. 500 words maximum)

Describe the unique qualities that attract you to the specific undergraduate College or School (including preferred admission and dual degree programs) to which you are applying at the University of Michigan. How would that curriculum support your interests?

Michigan State University Personal Statement

The Personal Statement is part of Michigan State's undergraduate application for admission. As part of the application, each applicant is required to submit a short essay of up to 400 words from a list of designated topics. This statement may be considered as a positive factor to enhance admissibility, as well as for scholarship consideration. Personal Statement topics on the 2013 application for admission are:

- Michigan State University recognizes that an assortment of interests, viewpoints, and life experiences are important in student learning and enhance the university community. Describe an experience, passion, or characteristic that illustrates what you would contribute to the MSU community and how this will add to the overall richness of campus life.
- Describe a significant experience from the past two years which required you to interact with someone outside of your own social or cultural group (ethnic, religious, geographic, socioeconomic, etc.). How did this impact you? What did you learn and what surprised you?

Grand Valley State University

Short answer questions, but can be written longer if needed.

- Describe your educational achievements in the face of any challenging social, economic, or cultural circumstances that you have encountered: (please attach a separate sheet if necessary)
- At Grand Valley, we feel that a range of thoughtful perspectives is necessary for open inquiry, liberal education, and a healthy community. Please tell us what unique perspectives you will bring to our university: (please attach a separate sheet if necessary)

Western Michigan University (optional essay)

- If you believe your academic record is not as strong as it should be, please attach a typed, one-page statement that helps us understand why you believe you can be academically successful at WMU.

Oakland University (optional essay)

- Discuss briefly something you would like to accomplish in your life and how a college degree will help you achieve it.

Eastern Michigan University, Central Michigan University, University of Michigan-Dearborn, Northern Michigan University, Wayne State University, Ferris State University, Michigan Tech, Lake Superior State, Washtenaw Community College, Northwestern Michigan College (Traverse City)

No Essay