

Scholarship Essay Instructions:

The scholarship essay gives you a real opportunity to distinguish yourself from other applicants; the essay may be your only chance to tell the scholarship committee who you really are aside from your test scores and class standing. Since the essay is so important, often students approach it by writing something they believe others will be interested in, or agree with. Readers often find such essays to be very similar, and they don't paint a vivid picture of the applicant – they take no risks, and, therefore, don't stand out.

In writing your essay, then, remember to be original; as you think about the topics below, don't necessarily choose the first idea that comes to mind, but mull your ideas over a bit until you come up with something that will give you a chance to shine. Use very specific examples and details to prove your point; if the person who has most influenced your life is your grandfather, don't just write, "I love my grandfather," but show your experiences with him, how he always had a candy bar stashed in his tackle box for you when you went fishing every Sunday afternoon.

The experiences you describe in your essay need not be grand in scope; small events can have great consequences. Choose something that touches you deeply, not something that you think will impress the committee.

Application Essays: On a separate page, **type** a brief essay (300-500 word) on one of the following topics:

1. Share about an experience and/or individual you believe influenced your decision to pursue higher education.
2. You are given living expenses for one year and are instructed to write a great novel in twelve months' time. Describe the novel that you would attempt to write.
3. What do you consider to be the single most important problem faced by modern society? Why? What do you think should be done?
4. Is college right for everyone? Should everyone try to earn a college degree? Why do you think it's right for you?

15. Certification and Signature

I certify that the above information is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and that the essay I am submitting is original and written entirely by me. I authorize appropriate individuals, offices or committees at USC Lancaster access to the information contained herein and to my admissions file for the sole purpose of determining my eligibility for scholarships at the University of South Carolina Lancaster. **Further, I understand that this application cannot be considered unless I submit an admissions application, SAT or ACT scores and transcript(s) to the Admissions Office by February 1.**

Signature _____ Date _____

For Office Use Only - Do Not Write In This Blank			
High School Attended _____			
SAT Scores: Verbal _____	Math _____	Total _____	
ACT Scores: English _____	Math _____	Composite _____	
Predicted GPR _____	Percentile: Rank _____ Class _____		



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

LANCASTER

Application for *Academic Scholarship*

How to Apply

1. Complete and return an application for admission to the USC Lancaster Admissions Office by February 1.
2. Have your SAT or ACT scores and transcript(s) for all previous academic work forwarded to the USC Lancaster Admissions Office.
3. Complete and return this application for an academic scholarship, including the essay, to the Admissions Office by February 1.

Other Information

1. Financial need is not a consideration in awarding academic scholarships; therefore, no financial report need be submitted for academic scholarships only.
2. Scholarships are awarded for the regular academic year, fall and spring semesters, and are not available in the summer.
3. Students selected for scholarships must enroll full time in order to receive their awards.

Before you begin

- Remember to PRINT ALL INFORMATION IN INK.
- Once you've completed the application, bring it to the Admissions Office in Starr Hall, or mail it to the USC Lancaster Admissions Office, PO Box 889, Lancaster, SC 29721-0889.

1. Name _____
last first middle

Preferred Name _____

2. Social Security Number (last four digits)

3. Mailing Address _____

city state zip county

4. Telephone Number _____
home school

5. Expected academic major at USC Lancaster _____

6. Occupational Objective _____

7. Father's employer _____

Mother's employer _____

8. Present or last school attended

name location dates attended

9. Admission Status

I submitted an application for admission to USC Lancaster on _____, 20 ____

I have not submitted an application to USC Lancaster.

10. (optional) If there is a particular USC Lancaster scholarship for which you wish to be considered, please indicate the name of the scholarship:

 (A complete list of available scholarships can be found at <http://usclanaster.sc.edu/finaid/scholshplist.htm>)

11. List any scholastic awards and/or honors received in high school and, if applicable, college.

12. List the major extracurricular, community activities, and hobbies in which you have participated during the past four years.

13. List your work experience during the last four years, including volunteer work.

14. List the books you have read during the past year. Place an "X" after those required in school courses. Include the magazines and newspapers you regularly read.