

HOW TO CREATE A STRONG USU HONORS APPLICATION

Extracurricular Resume

- **Curiosity, Creativity, and Passion:** Your school, work, and community activities can show us that you are curious about a range of topics, creative in your approach to those activities, and passionate about pursuing some of them over time. If you can, try to take on responsibility or leadership roles in areas that matter to you and to show us who you are in your resume. Your statements about the value of each activity are very important; give them some thought, and use them to showcase your curiosity, creativity, and passion.
- **Community Engagement:** Your resume can showcase the connection between your academic work and your commitment to make a difference. Honors students want to take their knowledge beyond the classroom. Use your resume to show us what you have already done to make your community better.
- **Format:** Follow the format of the sample resume provided on the application website (scan QR code below), selecting and showcasing the activities and accomplishments that mean the most to you.

Transcript

- **GPA/Optional Test Scores:** Do your best in your classes, and submit test scores and/or request a comprehensive review from USU before December 1. If you miss that deadline, pay particularly close attention to the paragraph that puts your transcript into context (see below).
- **Context Paragraph:** You will include a paragraph that describes how you managed to challenge yourself, even if it was difficult, to do your best in high school and to make the most of the time, classes, and resources available to you. You can include here any specific challenges or adversity you faced during high school. Honors is looking for students with the courage and resilience to take risks and overcome difficulties; try to show us that you are such a student.

Essays

- **Questions:** USU Honors Program students accept the poet Horace's ancient challenge: "*Sapere Aude*"—or "Dare to Know." The two required application essays on **Curiosity and Creativity** and **Courage and Connection** (250-300 words each—scan QR code below for essay prompts) demonstrate your ability to take this dare in different ways. Briefly, the first essay will describe a moment in high school when you became so curious about an idea, assignment, or activity in class that you decided to share it with people outside that class, and the second will explore your ability to empathize with people who disagree with you. In both cases, you will connect your high school experiences to your future at USU.
- **Examples:** Choose your examples from high school carefully, and be very specific about how and why they demonstrate either curiosity and creativity or courage and connection. Consider how you will bring what you did and learned in high school to USU and into the Honors Aggie community.
- **Plan:** Imagine yourself in the USU Honors Program. Take some time to consider how your curiosity and courage will grow in Honors and at USU. Try to describe the future in real, specific terms.
- **Impact:** The best essays do more than just discuss what Honors and USU can do for you; they describe what you will bring to the Honors Aggie community. Show us why you want to be here, and why we should want that, too.

PRIORITY APPLICATION DEADLINE: January 10



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