TIPS FOR A STRONG APPLICATION

1. DO YOUR RESEARCH

Be sure to carefully review the information online about the Honors College or visit TU and speak with an Honors representative. Understanding the values of the Honors College and characteristics of our community will help you make an informed decision about applying to the Honors College and submit a successful application.

2. PLAN AHEAD

Give yourself enough time before December 1 to complete both the Towson University application and the Honors section of the application.

3. DETAILS MATTER

We place a premium on strong writing. We look for mastery of the mechanics of writing (grammar, syntax, and organization) as well as fluency, critical thinking, and originality. Your essay reveals your readiness for advanced undergraduate study.

4. STAY FOCUSED & BE ORIGINAL

Respond directly to the question prompt and don’t write a research paper. Instead, write an essay with meaning, bringing your own personal observations and sensibility. There are no right or wrong answer - we’re interested in how you approach an open-ended question.

5. KEEP IT SIMPLE

Keep it simple. Application reviewers are impressed by what you have done and how you write, not by how well you can use a thesaurus. Give us your response to the prompt in your true voice. Editing is a critical talent that will become increasingly important as students advance through college, graduate, and professional school, and, of course, in their professions. Please consider the essay a good opportunity to apply and develop that skill.
6. GET FEEDBACK

Share your essay with at least one or two people who know you well – such as a parent, teacher, counselor, or friend – and ask for feedback. You are ultimately responsible for your essay, and it should retain your own voice, but others may be able to catch mistakes that you missed and help suggest areas to edit down. Remember, misspelled words and grammatical errors give a poor first impression of your writing ability or attention to detail.

7. REFLECT ON EXPERIENCES

Before preparing your resume, reflect upon the most meaningful opportunities you’ve pursued or that have had a positive impact on the people around you. Keep in mind that deep engagement with a limited number of things is just as valuable as engagement in a number of things. We value work experiences as well as extracurricular experiences.

8. SHOW ENGAGEMENT ON YOUR RESUME

Your resume should demonstrate how you engage your community beyond the classroom and a genuine appreciation for what you spend your time doing. Members of the Honors College participate in a range of activities, and we want new students who will take advantage of these resources and contribute to our vibrant community. We like to see evidence that you invest your energies into the activities you choose, however small or big.

9. CONTEXTUALIZE 2020

We recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted high school and college students on an unprecedented level, and that there are other things which may have affected your studies and do not show up on a traditional resume. We ask all applicants to provide a short statement on why the Honors College is right for you, and at the end of the resume invite you to explain circumstances which have affected your studies. If you have anything you feel comfortable sharing which can contextualize your other application materials for our reviewers, please include it in your resume.

10. A RECOMMENDATION IS OPTIONAL, AND A GOOD ONE HELPS

We encourage you to ask a teacher or professor to submit a letter in support of your Honors application. This is an optional piece of the application: having a good letter always helps an application, while the absence of a letter never hurts. Choose your recommender widely. The Honors recommendation prompt asks recommenders to reflect on how you think and learn, and what you add to a classroom dynamic. The best recommendations are from teachers who know you best and can discuss the substance of your intellect, character and strengths.