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 answers. Don’t repurpose an essay from another person or college or university’s application. We’ve seen plagiarized essays before, as well as the work of a parent, teacher or essay-writing professional. Don’t make that mistake.

5. KEEP IT SIMPLE

Keep it simple. Don’t use words that sound overly sophisticated. Application reviewers aren’t impressed by highfalutin language and vocabulary from the 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 perhaps 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. Remember that 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 cut if you are over the word limit. 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 YOUR ON 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 to admit students who will take advantage of these resources and contribute to our vibrant co-curricular community. We like to see evidence that you invest your energies into the activities you choose. You do not need to be president of a national organization to impress the review committee.

9. A RECOMMENDATION IS OPTIONAL, BUT 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.

10. CHOOSE YOUR RECOMMENDER WISELY

Submitting an optional recommendation, designed especially for Honors, will tell us a great deal about the way you think and learn, and what you add to a classroom dynamic. The best recommendations are not always from the teachers in whose class you earned the highest grades, but rather from those teachers who know you best and can discuss the substance of your intellect, character and strengths. Ideally, this letter will be from a teacher who taught you in your junior and/or senior years and knows you well.