



University of Colorado
Boulder

PERSONAL ESSAY QUESTIONS UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION APPLICATION

Two personal essays are **required** for CU-Boulder's undergraduate admission application. Your personal essays are the best way for us to learn about you as an individual and to evaluate your academic performance within an appropriate context. Please remember that there are no "correct" answers to these questions—your responses should reflect the unique aspects and experiences of your life. Consider reflecting on challenges you've overcome, your family or cultural heritage, your academic or cocurricular achievements, or specific moments that helped to define your character.

Essay A (required, 250 to 650 words).

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 below 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.

Essay B (required, 250 to 500 words).

The University of Colorado Boulder's *Flagship 2030* strategic plan promotes exceptional teaching, research, scholarship, creative works, and service distinguishing us as a premier university. We strive to foster a diverse and inclusive community for all that engages each member in opportunities for academic excellence, leadership, and a deeper understanding of the world in which we live.

Given the statement above, how do you think you could enrich our diverse and inclusive community, and what are your hopes for your college experience?

Write your responses in separate documents and include your full legal name and date of birth at the top of each page. Your personal essays must be received by the application deadline in order for your application file to be complete. You may submit your essays one of the following ways:

- In the 'Upload Documents' section of the online application
- By e-mail to apply@colorado.edu