

Dear A&H Scholarship Applicant,

Before you start filling out the A&H Scholarship Application Form, I ask you to take a few minutes to consider the suggestions below. Every year we in the Dean’s Office receive more applications than we are able to fund; what can you do to ensure that your application is successful?

First: realize that the process *is* competitive. Your application will be judged against all others. Thus, you want your application to make a good initial impression. Proof-read to ensure you haven’t mis-spelled any words or fallen into grammatical errors. Be sure to provide all requested information. If your phone number is no longer operative or your e-mail address is difficult to read, you are the one who loses.

Second: think about the readers of your application (yes: the application will be read and evaluated by at least three judges). In most cases, judges are faculty members or college board members. These people volunteer their time; try to keep them interested, engaged, and involved with your application. The application questions offer you an opportunity to distinguish yourself from other applicants. Take that opportunity. Go beyond the obvious. Make yourself memorable (while remaining truthful) but not obnoxious. Provide some specific examples in your responses. In other words: apply the rhetorical concepts you learned in first-year writing about purpose, audience and author.

Third: proof-read the application once again, not only for correctness, but also for tone, diction and level-of-engagement. If you find your responses boring, readers of the application most likely will be yawning as well. Go back and re-think those responses before clicking Enter. Only when your responses convey your best self should you submit the application.

Best wishes and good luck!