Resident Honors Program

2014 Application

Postmark Deadline: December 1, 2013
Welcome, Fall 2014 Applicants!

The Resident Honors Program has a two-part application process: the RHP Application and the Common Application with the USC Supplement.

The first step is the RHP Application, available on the RHP website in PDF format. The forms in the RHP Application will provide us with some personal and academic information about you. Also included are the high school Nomination Form and Informational Sheets for Teachers. Though the deadline for all application materials is December 1, 2013, we encourage you to submit the RHP Application and Nomination Form as soon as they are complete. Completing these sections early will identify you as a serious applicant and will ensure you receive further information about USC and the Resident Honors Program in a timely fashion.

The second step is the Common Application with the USC Supplement, available online at www.commonapp.org. Please review the USC Admission website (www.usc.edu/admission) for detailed application instructions, guidelines for certain majors, and information about financial aid. Your Common Application should include the School Report and two Teacher Evaluations. An official transcript and official SAT or ACT scores are also required.

All application materials must be completed and/or postmarked by December 1, 2013 in order for you to be considered for USC’s highest merit scholarships. This includes all components of the Common Application with the USC Supplement, which must be submitted online on or before December 1.

We look forward to working with you, and we welcome any inquiries you may have about the application process or any other aspect of the Resident Honors Program.

Mail the RHP Application and Nomination Form to:
Resident Honors Program
University of Southern California
3454 Trousdale Parkway, CAS 200
Los Angeles, CA  90089-0153

Submit all other materials online at:
www.commonapp.org

If offline submission is necessary, Common Application materials may be mailed to: USC Office of Admission, Undergraduate, University Park Campus, Los Angeles, CA, 90089-0911.

* Some programs and majors require supplemental materials that have varying deadlines. Please refer to the “Additional Requirements for Selected Majors” section of the USC Admission website for further information about supplemental requirements and deadlines.

To contact the Resident Honors Program by phone, call (213) 740-2961
RHP APPLICATION PROCESS:

To apply to the Resident Honors Program, you must submit the RHP Application, available from the RHP website, and the Common Application with the USC Supplement, available from the Common Application website.

- The RHP Application and Nomination Form must be mailed to the RHP Office. Common Application materials should be submitted online.
- The postmark deadline for all materials is December 1, 2013.
- Include your name on all documents.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST:

☐ COMPLETE THE 2014 RHP APPLICATION

SECTION A: Personal Information Form
SECTION B: Nomination Form. This must be completed by your high school counselor and principal or headmaster. Your application will not be processed until the Nomination Form is received. Please inform your counselor that additional forms will be required from him or her for the Common Application.
SECTION C: Information Sheets for Teachers. Give a copy to each teacher from whom you plan to request a recommendation. Ask that they use the guidelines on this sheet to complete the Common Application Teacher Evaluations. One recommendation must be from your English teacher.

☐ COMPLETE THE 2014 COMMON APPLICATION WITH THE USC SUPPLEMENT

This portion consists of the Common Application with the USC Supplement, the School Report, and two Teacher Evaluations. If they are able to, we strongly recommend your counselor and teachers attach letters of support to their Common Application forms.

All sections of the Common Application should be submitted online unless absolutely necessary. If your counselor or teachers must submit a form offline, it should be mailed to the USC Admission office, not the RHP Office.

Note that some majors and programs have supplemental applications and deadlines. These requirements are outlined within the Common Application and on the USC Admission website. Please review these instructions carefully and submit all relevant materials to their appropriate locations.

☐ SUBMIT YOUR OFFICIAL HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT

Your counselor should submit your official transcript online via the Common Application. If your counselor is not able to submit online, he or she should mail a sealed transcript to the USC Admission Office. Your transcript must include courses completed in the 9th grade, and it should reflect a rigorous college preparatory curriculum (including honors, AP, and/or IB courses) with few grades, if any, below B+

☐ SUBMIT YOUR OFFICIAL SAT OR ACT SCORES

USC requires official scores from the SAT or the ACT Plus Writing. A minimum combined SAT score of 2050 or composite ACT score of 32 is required to be considered for the Resident Honors Program. We consider the highest composite ACT score, or the best combination of SAT math, reading, and writing scores, even if they are from different test sittings.

- Take the PSAT in October 2013 to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship competition.
- Take the SAT or ACT by December 2013 to be considered for USC’s highest merit scholarships.
- Be sure to have your test scores sent directly to USC by the testing agency.
- SAT Subject Tests are not required, unless you attend a high school that is not regionally accredited or are home-schooled. However, subject test scores can strengthen a student’s application, and we encourage you to submit these scores if you have them.

INTERVIEW: If we have questions about your application, we may call you to arrange a brief phone interview. Please note that a separate on-campus interview is required to compete for USC’s highest merit scholarships. If you are being considered for these scholarships, you will be notified by the USC Admission Office in mid-February 2014.

APPLICATION FEE: An $80 application fee (or a fee waiver) is required as part of the Common Application.

HOUSING: On-campus housing is a vital part of the Resident Honors experience. If you are admitted to the program, you will receive housing information with your formal letter of acceptance to the University. Each RHP student is required to live in a USC freshman residence hall during his or her entire first year.

For more information, visit usc.edu/rhp
**Section A: Personal Information (page 1 of 3)**

Please use dark blue or black ink.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Middle Name</th>
<th>Social Security Number (Optional)</th>
<th>Birth Date (MM/DD/YY)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sex**

- U.S. Citizen [ ]
- U.S. Permanent Resident [ ]
- International [ ]

**Current Contact Information:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Street Address</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>State or Province</th>
<th>Zip</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Home Phone** ( )

**Cell Phone** ( )

**Email Address**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parent 1 Name</th>
<th>Parent 2 Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. / Ms. / Mrs. / Dr.</td>
<td>Mr. / Ms. / Mrs. / Dr.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Why are you interested in the Resident Honors Program? How will attending college early benefit you personally?**

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

**What are your goals for the future? Why?**

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

**What is your parents’ or guardians’ attitude toward your nomination for this early entrance program?**

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Section A: Personal Information (page 2 of 3)

Tell us about a book you read recently that you found especially significant or meaningful. How has it impacted your life?

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Describe your ideal educational environment. It could be one you have experienced or one you hope to find in the future.

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Do you have any exceptional talents?

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

How do you use your free time?

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Do you have any friends or relatives who have participated in RHP?

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Resident Honors Program
2014 Application
Postmark Deadline: December 1, 2013

Section A: Personal Information (page 3 of 3)

Essay: Answer one of the following prompts in a thoughtful and well-crafted response of 300-500 words. Feel free to type your essay and attach it to this sheet.

A. You are given 24 hours to spend anywhere in space or time. Where do you go? Why?
B. Consider a current local or global issue that interests you. Explain your views and convince us why this topic is worthy of greater attention.
Section B: Nomination Form (page 1 of 2)

This section is to be completed by a high school counselor and reviewed by the school’s principal or headmaster for his or her recommendation. Both must sign the form to show that the school endorses the student’s application to the Resident Honors Program and the student’s intention to begin college after his or her junior year of high school. Please note that a counselor will also be asked to complete the School Report as part of the Common Application. If you would like to include additional information, please feel free to attach a letter to this form.

THIS NOMINATION FORM MUST BE MAILED TO:
Resident Honors Program
University of Southern California
3454 Trousdale Parkway, CAS 200
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0153

Name of Student:

LAST _______________________________ FIRST _______________________________ M.I. ________________

High School Information:

SCHOOL NAME ___________________________________________ SCHOOL PHONE (_____) ______________________

SCHOOL ADDRESS ___________________________________________

HOW LONG HAS THE STUDENT ATTENDED THIS SCHOOL? _______________ STUDENT’S INTENDED YEAR OF GRADUATION _______________

PERCENTAGE OF THE STUDENT’S GRADUATING CLASS WHO PLAN TO ATTEND FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES OR UNIVERSITIES ______________________

Student’s grade point average and class ranking:

UNWEIGHTED GPA ___________________ WEIGHTED GPA ___________________ CLASS RANK ___________________ OF ___________________

We understand that many schools do not rank juniors. However, it is crucial to our evaluation process that we have the most accurate ranking information that you are able to provide for this student at this time. If exact rank is not available, please select a choice below.

STUDENT RANKS IN THE:  TOP 1% □ TOP 5% □ TOP 10% □ TOP 25% □ TOP 50% □ LOWER 50% □

AP or IB courses the student has taken (please list):

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Test scores (please report current information on the student’s best scores to date):

PSAT TEST DATE ___________ READING ___________ MATH ___________ WRITING ___________  

SAT TEST DATE ___________ READING ___________ MATH ___________ WRITING ___________  

ACT TEST DATE ___________ COMP. ___________ ENGLISH ___________ MATH ___________ READING ___________ SCIENCE ___________ WRITING ___________  


Section B: Nomination Form (page 2 of 2)

What are the first words that come to mind when describing the nominee's academic traits?


What are the first words that come to mind when describing the nominee’s personal traits?


Why do you believe this student will succeed in the Resident Honors Program?


Do you feel this student has the emotional maturity and self-confidence necessary to begin college now? Why or why not?


High School Counselor’s Approval:

SALUTATION __________________________ FIRST NAME __________________________ LAST NAME __________________________

CONTACT PHONE ( )

CONTACT ADDRESS __________________________

JOB TITLE __________________________

SIGNATURE __________________________ DATE __________

High School Principal or Headmaster’s Approval:

SALUTATION __________________________ FIRST NAME __________________________ LAST NAME __________________________

CONTACT PHONE ( )

CONTACT ADDRESS __________________________

JOB TITLE __________________________

SIGNATURE __________________________ DATE __________
Section C: Informational Sheet for Teachers

Student’s First Name: ___________________________  Last Name: ___________________________

The student named above has requested your help in evaluating his or her potential as part of the candidate’s application to the Resident Honors Program. We hope this brief informational sheet will be useful to you in your evaluation of the student, which should be submitted via the Common Application.

What is the Resident Honors Program?

The Resident Honors Program at the University of Southern California allows exceptional high school juniors to apply to USC in order to enter the University one year early. Students begin their four-year studies at USC as full college freshmen, and they are fully integrated in University life. Applicants should have a passion for learning, a record of success in the most challenging curriculum available, leadership experience, community involvement, and the high level of social, emotional, and intellectual maturity necessary to function independently as college freshmen.

To apply to RHP, the student must submit the RHP Application, the Common Application with USC Supplement (including the School Report and two Teacher Evaluations, one of which must be completed by the student’s English teacher), an official transcript, and official SAT or ACT scores.

What is my role?

If you agree to complete a recommendation for the student named above, the student will enter your contact information in the Common Application online. You will receive an email notification with instructions for how to complete the Common Application Teacher Evaluation. You will have the option to attach a letter to the ready-made form, which we highly encourage.

We value your honest impressions of the candidate, and we hope you will be as frank as possible when evaluating his or her strengths and weaknesses. Please specifically address why this student is or is not ready to attend college early, and in what areas he or she is still developing.

All recommendations should be submitted online as part of the Common Application, the same way you would submit a recommendation for a senior college applicant. Please do not attach this sheet. If you are unable to submit your recommendation online, you may mail a paper copy to: USC Office of Admission, Undergraduate, University Park Campus, Los Angeles, CA, 90089-0911.

How can I learn more?

If you would like to learn more about RHP, we encourage you to visit us online at www.usc.edu/RHP. You are also welcome to call us at 213-740-2961 or email residenthonors@dornsife.usc.edu with any questions or concerns. If you would like more information about the Common Application process, please visit www.commonapp.org.

Please submit your recommendation via the link emailed to you from the Common Application.

The submission deadline for all materials is December 1, 2013.
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