Resident Honors Program
2016 Application
Postmark Deadline: December 1, 2015
Welcome, Fall 2016 Applicants!

The Resident Honors Program has a two-part application process:

The first step is the **RHP Application**, which is this PDF. The forms in the RHP Application will provide us with some personal and academic information about you. Also included are the Nomination Form, to be completed by your high school counselor, and the Informational Sheets for Teachers, which do not need to be turned in. Though the deadline for all application materials is December 1, 2015, we encourage you to submit your RHP Application as soon as possible. Completing these sections early will identify you as a serious applicant and will ensure you receive updates about your application in a timely manner.

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

All application materials must be submitted or postmarked by **December 1, 2015**. This includes all components of the Common Application and 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  
3616 Trousdale Parkway, AHF 410  
Los Angeles, CA  90089-0375

**Submit the Common Application, including recommendations and transcripts, at:**

commonapp.org

If offline submission is necessary for any Common Application materials, they should be mailed to: USC Office of Admission, Undergraduate, University Park Campus, Los Angeles, CA, 90089-0911. Please do not submit Common Application materials to the RHP Office, as this will delay the processing of your application.

*Some majors and programs require supplemental application materials with varying deadlines. Please refer to the “Additional Major Requirements” section of the USC Admission website for more information about supplemental materials that may be required for your intended major.

For questions, email residenthonors@dornsife.usc.edu or call (213) 740-2955
Resident Honors Program
Application Guidelines
Deadline: December 1, 2015

RHP APPLICATION PROCESS:
To apply to the Resident Honors Program, you must submit the RHP Application, the Common Application with the USC Supplement, an official high school transcript, and official SAT or ACT scores. The RHP Application must be mailed to the RHP Office, while Common Application materials should be submitted online. The submission/postmark deadline for all materials is December 1, 2015.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST:

☐ 2016 RHP APPLICATION

SECTION A: Personal Information Form. Please email us one week after submission to confirm your form was received.

SECTION B: Nomination Form. This section must be completed by your high school counselor and your school’s principal or headmaster. Your application will not be reviewed until the Nomination Form is received. Remember to inform your counselor that he or she will also be required to complete the School Report as part of the Common Application.

SECTION C: Informational 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 online. One recommendation must be from your English teacher. The sheets themselves need not be submitted.

☐ 2016 COMMON APPLICATION WITH THE USC SUPPLEMENT

Submit the Common Application with the USC Supplement, including the School Report and two Teacher Evaluations. One evaluation must be from your English teacher. If they are able to, we strongly recommend that 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 Office of Admission, not to 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, if applicable to your desired major, submit all relevant materials to their respective locations.

☐ OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS

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 Office of Admission. Your transcript must include coursework completed in the 9th grade, and it should reflect a rigorous college preparatory curriculum (including honors, AP, and/or IB courses if they are offered at your school) with few grades, if any, below A. If you have taken any additional high school or college coursework, including over the summer, you must also submit official transcripts from these institutions.

☐ 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 review the best combination of SAT math, reading, and writing scores, even if they are from different test sittings, or the highest composite ACT score. 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. If you are home-schooled, please contact us for full instructions.

You should take the SAT or ACT before December to ensure that your scores arrive in time to be considered for USC’s highest merit scholarships. Scores from December test sittings may be reviewed for admission purposes, but they will not be reviewed for scholarship consideration. Be sure to request that your official scores are sent directly to USC by the testing agency. While PSAT scores are not reviewed for admission to RHP, you should take the PSAT in October to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship competition.

INTERVIEW: If we have questions about your application, we may call you to arrange a brief, informal phone interview. Otherwise, an interview is not required. However, if you are planning to visit campus, you are welcome to schedule an optional interview with either RHP or USC Admission. No preference is given to students who do or do not interview. Students who reach the final consideration stage for certain USC scholarships will be required to attend a separate on-campus scholarship interview in February or March. Applicants being considered for one of these scholarships will be notified by the USC Office of Admission in early 2016.

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

For questions, email residenthonors@dornsife.usc.edu or call (213) 740-2955
### Section A: Personal Information (page 1 of 3)

Please print clearly in black or dark blue ink.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>About You:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LAST _______  FIRST _______  MIDDLE _______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREFERRED NAME ___________________________  BIRTH DATE (MM/DD/YY) ___________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEX _______  U.S. CITIZEN OR NATIONAL ☐  U.S. PERMANENT RESIDENT OR REFUGEE ☐  OTHER ☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Contact Information:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STREET ADDRESS ______________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CITY ___________________  STATE OR PROVINCE _______  ZIP _______  COUNTRY ________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOME PHONE ( )  CELL PHONE ( )  EMAIL ADDRESS ____________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARENT 1  MR. / MS. / MRS. / DR. ___________________  PARENT 2  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?

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What are your goals for the future? Why?

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________________________________________________________________________________________

What are your parents’ or guardians’ attitudes about your application to an early entrance program?

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________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________
Resident Honors Program
2016 Application
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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?

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________
Section A: Personal Information (page 3 of 3)

Essay: Answer one of the following prompts in a thoughtful and well-crafted essay of 500-600 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 and/or when 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 should be completed by the student’s high school counselor and reviewed by the school’s principal or head of school for his or her approval. 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 the counselor will also be asked to complete the School Report as part of the Common Application. Please submit any recommendation letters or transcripts with the School Report, not with this form.

Student Information:

LAST ___________________________ FIRST: ___________________________ M.I. __________

High School Information:

SCHOOL NAME ___________________________ SCHOOL PHONE (_____) __________

SCHOOL ADDRESS ___________________________

HOW LONG HAS THE STUDENT ATTENDED THIS SCHOOL? ________________ STUDENT’S EXPECTED 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 or is currently enrolled in (please list):

________________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

Test scores (please report 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 ___________

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Section B: Nomination Form (page 2 of 2)

What are the first words that come to mind when you think of the nominee’s personal and academic qualities?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Do you feel this student has the intellectual, social, and emotional maturity necessary to begin college now? Why or why not?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Why do you believe the Resident Honors Program is or is not the right fit for this student?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Counselor’s Approval:

SALUTATION ___________ FIRST NAME ___________________________ LAST NAME ___________________________

CONTACT PHONE ( )

CONTACT ADDRESS

JOB TITLE

SIGNATURE ___________________________ DATE ___________________________

Principal or Head of School’s Approval:

SALUTATION ___________ FIRST NAME ___________________________ LAST NAME ___________________________

CONTACT PHONE ( )

CONTACT ADDRESS

JOB TITLE

SIGNATURE ___________________________ DATE ___________________________
Section C: Informational Sheet for Teachers

Student’s Name: ____________________________

The student above is requesting your help in evaluating his or her potential for the Resident Honors Program, an early entrance opportunity at the University of Southern California. We hope this brief informational sheet will be useful to you in your assessment of the student. Your evaluation should be submitted online via the Common Application no later than December 1, 2015. You do not need to submit this sheet.

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 wholly 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 the 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 might submit a recommendation for a senior applicant. Please do not attach this sheet. If you are unable to submit your recommendation online, you may print a paper copy of the Teacher Evaluation form at commonapp.org and mail it 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 usc.edu/RHP. You are also welcome to call us at 213-740-2955 or email residenthonors@dornsife.usc.edu with any questions or concerns. If you would like more information about the Common Application process, please visit commonapp.org.

Submit your evaluation to the Common Application via the link emailed to you.

The submission deadline is
December 1, 2015

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