

Spiritan Year of Service Program Application

APPLICATION ESSAYS AND ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

All documents (essays, resume, transcripts, and health forms) must be submitted by the deadline for your application to be considered complete. All forms must be submitted as PDFs.

ALL DOCUMENTS ARE DUE IN DIGITAL FORM TO PROGRAM DIRECTOR LUCI-JO DIMAGGIO at dimaggi171@duq.edu BY MARCH 22ND 2019. It is permissible to do this program while taking graduate classes but you must declare that in the email that accompanies your application.

This page details all required documents including:

- Essays (2)
- Resume
- Transcript
- Medical forms

APPLICATION ESSAYS

We value the life experience you bring to this process and encourage reflection on your journey thus far. Answering the following questions will help you examine your readiness to make the commitment to SYSP and to carry out its mission to work for justice and peace as well as grow in your own spiritual journey.

Essays should be typed in 12point, standard fonts, using 1 inch margins, and 1.5 spaced lines. Documents should be saved as PDF files prior to submission.

Please be sure to include your name and the title of the essay on each page of each document.

Essay A: Autobiography (3-5 pages total)

Please compose a brief and cohesive autobiographical essay that shares with us information about who you are and the background and experiences you would bring to the program. Consider including information about the following:

- Persons, experiences, and identities that have helped shape who you are today including your personality, faith, and ideals
- A challenge you and/or your family has faced and how you worked through it
- A difficult choice you've had to make, your process in approaching the decision, and how the decision reflects your values
- Elements of your personality that will help you thrive in SYSP; Elements of your personality that may hinder your ability to thrive
- Your passions and how you act on them

Essay B: Short Answers (no more than 1 paragraph per prompt)

Mission of the SYSP: In the rich tradition of the Spiritans to create a more just world, the Spiritan Year of Service Program (SYSP) strives to engage college graduates as they live their faith in action.

- Consider SYSP's mission statement. How do you believe this program will help to foster your growth as you live your faith in action?
- Please share a personal example of your work with those on the margins of society. How do you think this service relates to charity? To social justice?
- In striving toward a more just, peaceful, and hopeful world we recognize that racism can inhibit the ability to build relationships of equity, trust, and justice. Reflect on your own understanding of racism and its impact on your community. What is one example of how you see racism manifested in your current context (school, work, neighborhood)?
- What tensions do you anticipate experiencing in working alongside marginalized people as someone privileged to commit to a year of service?
- Living a simple lifestyle is not about the things you give up: it's about what you gain. SYSP participants commit to a simple lifestyle, living within a modest monthly budget and focusing on people and relationships (rather than material possessions). Please share your understanding of a simple lifestyle through a concrete example of how you currently choose to live out this value and an example of when it is difficult to do so.
- This program and mission draw upon influences from our Catholic Spiritan spiritual tradition. The value of spirituality is expressed in this program through various experiences, including retreats, events with the

lay Spiritan community, and personal prayer and reflection. What are your expectations for the role spirituality will play in during your time in the program?

- All participants live in intentional community with other SYSP members while also committing to engage in their local communities. Drawing on any past experiences, please share a bit about what it means to live in an intentional community. How is it different than living with family, a significant other, or roommates?
- What do you anticipate to be the most challenging part of community living for you? Why? What are some of your needs in living with others?
- How do you see your role as a “guest” in a different place or culture? How do you anticipate the time commitment of SYSP affecting your relationships with local community members?
- Living in community, working towards social justice, committing to a simple lifestyle, and growing in your personal spirituality can bring many graces and challenges. Reflect briefly on a time in your life when things did not go as you had planned or expected. How did you react in the situation? What lessons did you learn? How do you take care of yourself?
- How do you recognize when you are well-balanced and off balance? Please draw from specific examples in your past that taught you this about yourself.

RESUME

Please submit a resume of no more than one (1) page.

In your resume, in addition to education, experience, skills, etc., please also include all cross- cultural and international experiences you have had.

TRANSCRIPTS

Your application can only be considered complete by the deadline if we have received at least one unofficial copy of your transcript sent as a PDF. Please send one (1) official copy of all transcripts for graduate and undergraduate work. Official transcripts for degrees already conferred should come directly from the school postmarked within one week of the deadline.

MEDICAL FORMS

Make an appointment with a healthcare provider who can complete your health & wellness and medical clearance forms. Scan and submit as a PDF.