

Alaska Pacific University

Early Honors Application Advice



As part of the Early Honors application process, students will submit both a writing sample and complete an admissions interview. These requirements simulate the typical Personal Statement/Application Essay and Admissions Interview that accompany many college applications for first-year students.

The writing sample and interview provide students with the greatest opportunity for highlighting who they are as an individual and how they express themselves. Both requirements allow students to demonstrate why they are interested in the Early Honors program and why the program is a good fit for their academic interests and goals.

Writing Sample

Your writing sample is an opportunity to not only showcase who you are as an individual and student, but also to demonstrate your writing skills and ability to succeed in college level coursework. Your writing sample must meet the following formatting requirements: minimum 500 words, typed and double-spaced. Be sure to submit a piece of writing that reflects the true level of your critical thinking and writing ability. Ensure your writing has been proofread and edited to avoid significant spelling/grammar/usage errors. Seek out the feedback of a skilled writer/editor before submitting your final draft. **Choose from the following topics:**

- Discuss a significant event or achievement that has shaped your values/goals
- Describe a book, author, or individual who has had an impact on your development as a person
- Tell us about your passions and interests and how they contribute to your personality
- Submit a graded writing sample of which you are especially proud; include the parameters of the original assignment and your teacher's feedback/comments

Admissions Interview

After submission and review of your application, you will be invited for a short face-to-face admissions interview (30-60 minutes) with the Early Honors Program Director and Admissions Counselor. During the interview, you should be ready to answer a variety of questions about yourself, your prior academic experiences, and future goals. The purpose of the interview is to both share more about yourself and for the interviewers to determine whether you are a good fit for the rigor and structure of the Early Honors program. **To best prepare for your interview, be ready to discuss the following topics:**

- What interests you, both as a person outside of school (what do you enjoy doing in your free time) and academically (what do you enjoy studying/researching)
- Why you are interested in the Early Honors program and how does it fit in with your overall academic goals (both current and future)
- What your high school experience has been like so far
 - Specific classes and/or assignments
 - Specific successes/challenges
- What your approach to studying/homework completion/test preparation/time management looks like.