

# Education and or Life Experiences Responses

## Education and or Life Experiences Responses

The University of Louisville is committed to reviewing your application holistically, but to do so we need more information about the experiences, skills, values, and attributes that will help you to achieve your highest potential and at the same time to contribute to our nurturing and welcoming educational community.

**Required for Degree Seeking Applicants:** Please choose two of the prompts below and discuss in each response how at least one specific experience you’ve had illustrates the skills or attributes that will help you to succeed. Please check your program’s website to see if it requires you to write about a particular attribute in one of these essays, or if it requires you to address specific skills or values in your personal statement. Each response is limited to 300 words.

### Leadership

Leadership is the desire and ability to inspire others and the willingness to help them succeed. Leaders must recognize, respect, and encourage the unique strengths of others to enable a group to achieve a shared vision.

Write about an experience that shows your leadership or your preparation to be a leader.

### Community Engagement

Community engagement implies your involvement and participation in an organization for the good of the community. A community-engaged scholar or student recognizes and acts on their responsibilities to their communities, local, national, and even globally.

Write about an experience that shows your engagement (through volunteerism, service, or research) with members of your community in an effort to address some issue important to that community.

### Resilience and Adaptability

Higher education, like most aspects of life today, can be stressful and constantly changing; experiments fail, deadlines are missed, and papers are rejected. Resilience and adaptability allow you not only to tolerate stressful environments but also to persist and succeed despite them. The resilient person can recover from a set-back and is able to navigate challenges and handle multiple, often competing demands.

Write about an experience that illustrates your capacity for resilience and adaptability.

### Accountability and Responsibility

Graduate study requires you to be responsible —to consistently meet your obligations and complete assigned tasks in a timely and satisfactory manner; it also requires you to be accountable to a project, class goal, the success of the lab, research group, or program, and ultimately to your own learning. Students who are both responsible and accountable, own their actions and performance and know their impact on the success of others; they do not blame others for their own mistakes.

Write about an experience where you learned the importance of accountability and responsibility.

### Self-Motivation

Self-motivation is the ability to take the initiative to set individual goals and to work independently to make progress toward those goals; a self-motivated person does not wait for others to ask questions or assign tasks.

Write about an experience that shows your ability to set goals and work independently, to own your learning.

### Capacity for Self-Improvement

Successful graduate students solicit and respond appropriately to feedback from mentors, instructors, and peers; they are curious, seek opportunities to learn new things, and engage in reflective practice for improvement. They make an effort to honestly recognize their own strengths and weaknesses and to enhance their strengths and mitigate their weaknesses.

Write about an experience that illustrates your capacity for self-improvement.

### Inclusive Excellence

The Graduate School at the University of Louisville values an environment of inclusiveness that empowers us all to achieve our highest potential. We commit ourselves to building a welcoming educational community that offers a nurturing and challenging intellectual climate, a respect for the variety of human diversity, and an understanding of the many differences that enrich a vibrant metropolitan university.

Describe the ways in which these values and commitments align with your values or support the advancement of your interests and goals for graduate study.