

Before completing this form, please consult the instructions for ED applicants on the member's institutional website.

**Important:** The Early Decision Agreement is required *only* for candidates who have chosen to apply via the binding Early Decision Plan to their first-choice institution.

College name University of Virginia

☒ Early Decision ☐ Early Decision II

Deadline \_\_\_\_\_

### TO THE APPLICANT

Legal Name Rodriguez P. Francisco Emilio ☐ Female ☒ Male  
Last/Family/Sur (Enter name *exactly* as it appears on official documents.) First/Given Middle (complete) Jr., etc.

Birth Date 06/27/1990  
mm/dd/yyyy

Address 42 Silcreek Dr. Belmont CA USA 95116  
Number & Street Apartment # City/Town State/Province Country ZIP/Postal Code

School you now attend Notre Dame de Namur University CEEB/ACT Code \_\_\_\_\_

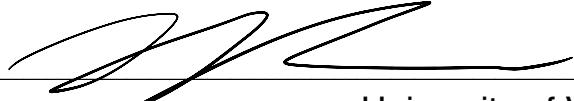
Have you been a candidate for admission to this college in any previous year? ☐ Yes ☒ No Year \_\_\_\_\_

### INSTRUCTIONS


From the National Association for College Admission Counseling *Statement of Principles of Good Practice*:

**“Early Decision (ED) is the application process in which students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted, they definitely will enroll.** While pursuing admission under an Early Decision plan, students may apply to other institutions, but may have only one Early Decision application pending at any time. Should a student who applies for financial aid not be offered an award that makes attendance possible, the student may decline the offer of admission and be released from the Early Decision commitment. The institution must notify the applicant of the decision within a reasonable and clearly stated period of time after the Early Decision deadline. Usually, a nonrefundable deposit must be made well in advance of May 1. The institution will respond to an application for financial aid at or near the time of an offer of admission. Institutions with Early Decision plans may restrict students from applying to other early plans. Institutions will clearly articulate their specific policies in their Early Decision agreement.”


**If you are accepted under an Early Decision plan, you must promptly withdraw the applications submitted to other colleges and universities and make no additional applications to any other university in any country.** If you are an Early Decision candidate and are seeking financial aid, you need not withdraw other applications until you have received notification about financial aid from the admitting Early Decision institution.

Signature of Student  Date 11/21/2017  
mm/dd/yyyy

I wish to be considered as an Early Decision candidate at: University of Virginia  
I have read and understand my rights and responsibilities under the Early Decision process. I also understand that with an Early Decision offer of admission, this institution may share my name and my Early Decision Agreement with other institutions.

Signature of Counselor  Date \_\_\_\_\_  
mm/dd/yyyy

As the counselor, I have advised the applicant to abide by the Early Decision commitment outlined above.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian  Date \_\_\_\_\_  
mm/dd/yyyy


As the parent/legal guardian, I will ensure that the applicant abides by the Early Decision commitment outlined above.


# Posse Veterans Program Finalist Agreement


## *University of Virginia*


By accepting my position as a Finalist for the Posse Scholarship, I acknowledge, that if I am selected as a Posse Scholar, I agree to the following:


### Initial

 If I am selected as a Posse Scholar, I understand that it is a binding early-decision commitment to the University of Virginia and to the Posse Foundation. I will withdraw all other applications and turn down any other college acceptances received, regardless of offer.

 I will participate in the month-long Pre-College Training at the Posse National office in July/August. The training will be all day during the month. I will attend and be on time to every meeting and take full advantage of the opportunity to develop my leadership skills, get to know my Posse, work on my academic writing, and engage in conversations on political and social issues that will be important on my college campus and in my career.

 Once on campus, for the first two years, I will meet individually with the Posse mentor at a scheduled session every two weeks and with the Posse as a group each week. I will be on time for and attend every Posse meeting. I will give and receive support to my fellow Posse members and engage in the larger University of Virginia community.

 I will attend all Posse special events during training and on campus. This will include Big Meetings twice per semester when the entire Posse Scholar community will come together and the PossePlus Retreat which will take place on a weekend in the spring each year. (Students studying abroad are excused.)

 Once selected for the Posse, I will sign a participation agreement and a grade release form.

By signing below, I indicate that I understand all of the above guidelines and will adhere to each of them.

Finalist Name Francisco Rodriguez P. Finalist College University of Virginia

Finalist Signature  Date 11/21/2017

Director Posse Veterans Program \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

November 2017

Dear Posse Finalist,

Congratulations on being selected as a **2017** Posse finalist. I'm writing to tell you about an additional and exciting opportunity for Posse Finalists. This year, out of 17,000 students nominated for 720 scholarship slots at Posse's 52 partner colleges and universities, only 1,400+ have been chosen to advance to the final round. You are one of these selected finalists. Congratulations, this is a remarkable achievement. While The Posse Foundation would love for all finalists to win a Posse Scholarship, this will not be possible. But this year, The Posse Foundation is also giving you an additional opportunity to be a part of **Posse Access**. Posse Access is a database designed to allow those finalists **not** selected as Posse Scholars *to be considered* for admission by Posse's partner colleges and universities. You have made it this far, which means that The Posse Foundation has identified you as an outstanding candidate for a Posse Scholarship. However, if you are **not** selected, The Posse Foundation is automatically providing an opportunity to you to be considered by Posse's partner colleges and universities. To activate your Posse Access option you must:

1. Complete your **Posse Access Agreement** and **Posse Consent for Release of Information**. These forms are included in your finalist packet.
2. Complete a Common Application online by **December 14, 2017**.
  - a. Visit <https://apply.commonapp.org/Login>
  - b. Here is great info about the Common App: <https://www.commonapp.org/how-apply#component-wrapper-15>

Very important: If you are already using a Common Application as your Posse Finalist Application to the **University of Virginia** as indicated in your finalist letter, this is the only application you have to complete. Otherwise, you must first complete your **University of Virginia** Posse Application. Once all of the Posse Scholarship decisions have been made, Posse will make the profiles of the unselected finalists available to the admissions offices of our partner colleges and universities via a secure, online database. Admissions offices may then decide to contact you to explore the potential for admission. If this happens, they may ask you to give them access to your **Common Application online**, which is why it's important you complete your Common Application so you can easily submit it to Posse's partner colleges and universities. It is possible that more than one partner school may contact you. It is possible that none may contact you. It is also possible that you may be encouraged to apply but might not get admitted. Having said this, this is a unique and tremendous opportunity to be connected to other top colleges and universities if you do not move forward with Posse.

Please note that if you decline the invitation to the finalist meeting you cannot opt into Posse Access. If you have any additional questions, please call the Posse office at **212-405-1691**. Congratulations once again. We look forward to seeing you at the finalist meeting. Best of luck!

Marcus Felder  
Director, Posse Veterans Program

## Posse Access for Finalists *Frequently Asked Questions*

**Q: What information about me is shared with partner colleges + universities through Posse Access?**

A: *All of the information a finalist has given to The Posse Foundation, throughout the selection process, will be available for viewing.*

**Q: If I decline an invitation to a finalist meeting, can I still be eligible for Posse Access?**

A: *No. Posse Access is only available to those finalists who affirmatively accept Posse Access enrollment and complete the finalist meeting but are not selected as a Posse Scholar.*

**Q: How long will my information be available to Posse's partner colleges + universities?**

A: *Partner colleges + universities will be given a user ID and password during the last two weeks of December. They will be able to access the data from that date until February of the following year.*

**Q: Can I choose which Posse partner colleges + universities have access to my profile?**

A: *No. All of Posse's partner colleges + universities using Posse Access will have access to the profiles of all of unselected finalists who have opted in.*

**Q: Can a Posse partner college or university share the data contained in Posse Access with anyone else?**

A: *No. Posse's partner colleges and universities who use Posse Access do not share your information with anyone else.*

**Q: If I am contacted by a Posse partner college or university through Posse Access and I choose to apply, would my application be considered for Early Decision or Regular Admission?**

A: *This would be discussed by you and the college or university.*

**Q: Is it possible that I may be contacted by more than one Posse partner college or university through Posse Access?**

A: *Yes. It is possible that more than one college or university may contact you through Posse Access.*

**Q: If I am not contacted by a Posse partner college or university through Posse Access but it is one that I am interested in, what should I do?**

A: *Posse encourages non-selected finalists to consider applying to any Posse partner college or university, as well as to other colleges and universities.*

**Q: Will I get a full-tuition scholarship if I am admitted to a Posse partner college or university through Posse Access?**

A: *Not necessarily. Every unselected finalist admitted to a Posse partner college or university through Posse Access should complete the financial aid process and discuss options for other scholarships, grants and/or loans with the college or university they apply to.*

**Q: What information will my college or university share with Posse if I am admitted through Posse Access?**

A: *Partner colleges + universities will inform Posse of the unselected finalists contacted, those who are offered admission, those who matriculate, the persistence and graduation rates of matriculated students, the GPAs of matriculated students, and the financial aid profile of matriculated students. Posse will not share or publish any information about an individual student. Posse would only share or publish information or data in the aggregate.*

**Q: Does the college or university need my permission to release this information to Posse?**

A: *Yes. For grades, enrollment status, retention rates, graduation information and financial aid profiles, you must sign a FERPA form authorizing the college or university to release this information to Posse. You will receive an email from Posse asking you and your parent/guardian to electronically sign your Posse Access agreement and FERPA forms.*

**Q: Why does Posse need this information about admitted prospects?**

A: *This information will allow Posse to evaluate the efficacy of its model and to create more opportunities for admission to top tier colleges and universities for urban public high school seniors.*

**Visit** Posse's partner colleges and universities:

<http://www.possefoundation.org/our-university-partners/participating-schools/>

# Posse Access Agreement

Please check one of the two options below. Sign and return this form to the Posse office when you drop off your **University of Virginia** application.

X

\_\_\_\_ **OPTION 1: YES, I WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN POSSE ACCESS! I understand that I was automatically enrolled and wish to participate in Posse Access.** If I am not selected as a Posse Scholar I **do** want my profile and all related information made available to Posse's partner colleges and universities. By signing this, I acknowledge and accept all of the terms below.

## TERMS

*By joining Posse Access:*

1. The Posse Foundation will grant secured access to your Posse profile, via Posse Access, to the Posse partner colleges and universities who have agreed to the terms of use;
2. Your Posse Access profile contains the information you provided throughout your interview process;
3. The Posse Foundation will gather information about admissions decisions, grade point averages and financial aid information. Your information will remain confidential and will only be used in the aggregate;
4. Posse partner colleges and universities may or may not contact you;
5. Opting into Posse Access creates no obligation on the part of The Posse Foundation, other than to provide access to the profiles of prospects by registered partner colleges and universities.

\_\_\_\_ **OPTION 2: NO, I do not want to participate in Posse Access.** I understand that by opting out, I will not be connected through the Posse Foundation to Posse's partner colleges and universities.



Signature

11/21/2017

Date

Francisco Rodriguez P

Print Name



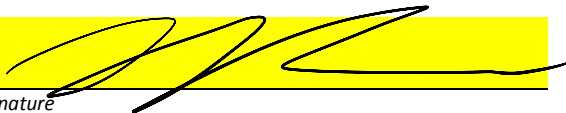
Consent for the Release of Information

POSSE ACCESS

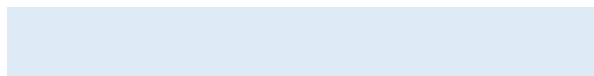
If I apply to a Posse partner college or university ("College or University"), I, Francisco Rodriguez P., authorize the College or University to provide The Posse Foundation

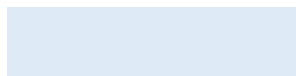
*Name*  
with information contained in my record, including without limitation my Educational Record, as defined by FERPA, for the duration of my undergraduate career. This authorization is given regardless of my ultimate admission or enrollment status at such College or University. This information includes but is not limited to the release of my grades on a regular basis, my financial aid information, and information regarding my application and enrollment status and academic standing.

This permission is given, where applicable, pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. §1232g; 34 CFR Part 99). This permission can be revoked by me at any time by submitting written notice to College or University.


  
*Signature*

11/21/2017  
*Date*

  
*Parent/Guardian Signature if I am under 18*

  
*Date*

I acknowledge that my individual information will not be shared publicly but may be used anonymously and in the aggregate in Posse Foundation research and reports.

  
*Initial*

# Essay 101

## The importance of the essay

If you are at a party where 9 out of 10 people are very smart but also very full of themselves, would you rather hang out with the arrogant smart person or would you rather hang out with the ten percent of partygoers who are nice and approachable?

I raise this hypothetical because this question is one that admissions officers encounter. Many schools get inundated with applicants who have incredible test scores and GPAs. However, the admissions office is not about simply admitting individuals who have a large prefrontal cortex. Rather admissions officers are often just as concerned about the potential and personality of the applicant. Numerous studies have shown that emotional intelligence can be a better predictor of success than simply raw intelligence.

The admissions essay is the one chance the applicant has to describe themselves and show how the person behind the uniform. The letters of recommendation allows admissions officers to view the applicant from the outside in whereas the essays enable the admissions office to understand the applicant and to view how the individual thinks and feels. The personal essays form the basis of the applicant's software that the admissions office plays on their hardware. This piece of software enables the reviewer to experience and understand the program and to see whether the software is entertaining, driven, or smart.

Every aspect of the application is important: letters of recommendation, resume, standardized test score, past academic performance, and essays. Schools use the resume, standardized test score, and past academic performance to gauge ability. The resume and transcript describe you quantitatively (GPA and SAT/GMAT/GRE test score) whereas the essay allows the applicant to describe themselves qualitatively: to discuss past experiences, goals, and who they are as a person. For military applicants, the essay is extremely important because it provides the applicant a chance to shatter stereotypes that people associate with those in the military. Moreover, a good essay helps an applicant to show that they are more than just an "egghead" and that they are an interesting person who one would like to talk to at a party, hangout with, employ, and want as a leader. It enables the military applicant to display his or her intangibles or soft skills.

## Tips to writing a good essay

Content:

We feel foolish for mentioning this but we nonetheless feel compelled to remind applicant's that when writing their essays, they need to remember to answer the prompt (i.e. get to the point or BLUF). If the prompt says what are your short and long term goals, then your first few sentences should probably start with: "My short term goal is . . . My long term goal is . . ."



Occasionally you will be asked a question that asks you to discuss a setback. Again, it is important that one describe a setback but when faced with this type of question it is also important to address how one dealt with the setback. Always first answer the question, and then seek to answer any second or third order issues that the prompt addresses.

Tell an honest and truthful story. Two parts to this advice, the first is obvious-do not embellish your story. Yes, as veterans we have ridiculously-crazy but true stories to tell. Don't be afraid to relate these crazy but true stories. The second part of the advice is to tell a good story. Your essay should not be a restatement of your resume. It is a chance to describe yourself beyond your past accomplishments and test scores. Provide a history of who you are and tell this personal story by providing a narrative. Avoid having your essays read like encyclopedia entries. Try to have your essays read like a classic short story: a combination of intrigue, humor, suspense, and thoughtful reflection. People like to read narratives/stories as opposed to reports.

Describe rather than state. For example, instead of writing that you are a "hard worker" you should describe how you spent countless hours patrolling with your soldiers and how you often staying up late to check up on your soldiers who were pulling guard in the middle of the night.

The best essays are those that work together to provide a comprehensive overview of who you are as a person. Select certain events that highlight pivotal moments in your life and discuss how these incidents impacted you. Think about the essays before you start writing. Generate 2-3 responses for each prompt. Outline your responses, and generate 2-3 responses for each prompt/question. Then select the response that provides the most interesting or gripping life narrative.

Try to ensure that not only do your essays embody who you are as a person but also that the essays are synchronized with your resume and applicant background. We highly recommend that applicants have their essays augment (i.e. provide greater details to points in) their resume.

Grammar:

Your writing should be succinct, fast paced, and easy to read. Avoid passive sentences unless you deliberately intend to use a passive sentence for stylistic reasons. Proofread your essays for misspellings, grammatical errors, and for redundancy.

The best way to avoid having grammatical errors is to conduct several edits. We profess that we are not the best editors of our own work. That is why when we write, we often write the first draft, sleep, and then review the draft. This process lets us be refreshed and open minded when reviewing our first draft. After editing our

own drafts several times we let friends and family review the drafts because they bring in a fresh set of eyes and perspective to the tone and content of our essays. After they have given some feedback, we incorporate their advice, and then review the essays a few more times before submitting the final draft.

The writing process is time consuming. Start early, outline, and continuously seek feedback on how you can improve your essays.

#### Style:

Use powerful openers. At a party one is likely to not engage someone in a conversation if it takes the person ten minutes to finally talk about something interesting. Similarly, in an essay, a powerful opener can really capture the attention of the reader.

While writing about your military career can be interesting, sometimes the best essays are those that shatter people's stereotypes. Thus, a good essay can be more than just about a deployment. Instead, a military applicant might want to consider writing about hobbies or interests that are unrelated to being in the military. Discussing these hobbies and how they might intersect with a future career or occupation can result in a powerful essay.

Everyone has a unique writing style. However, seek to have your writing be accessible. The best essays are those that have a clear voice, structure, and have an overall theme. Avoid having long sentences and paragraphs. Long sentences can be visually unappealing and also difficult to comprehend.

*From: <http://service2school.com/>*