



# APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

## FRESHMAN ADMISSION 2018-2019

Our holistic review focuses on your potential to succeed at Rice. It considers your curriculum and academic performance, test scores, extracurricular activities and achievements outside of class. We understand each person brings a unique set of experiences to the table – different thoughts, values, beliefs and cultural perspectives – and we'll ask you to show those throughout your application. Our evaluation process is designed to provide each student a fair and equitable review.

### HOW TO APPLY

To apply to Rice University, freshman applicants must use either the Coalition Application ([www.mycoalition.org](http://www.mycoalition.org)) or the Common Application ([www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)). Rice does not have a preference between the two applications.

### APPLICATION DEADLINES

The application and all required supporting documentation are due by the appropriate deadline:

Early Decision	Nov. 1, 2018
The Shepherd School of Music	Dec. 1, 2018
Rice/Baylor Medical Scholars Program	Dec. 1, 2018
Regular Decision	Jan. 1, 2019

Note: A comprehensive application checklist is available on our website [admission.rice.edu/apply/freshman](http://admission.rice.edu/apply/freshman)

### ELIGIBILITY

You will be considered a freshman applicant if you will complete high school by the end of this current academic year, or if you elected to take time off from schooling between graduating from high school and enrolling in college. *Students enrolled in concurrent high school and college courses are considered freshmen candidates.* Completion of a high school diploma (or an equivalent) prior to enrollment is required for all new incoming students.

Students are considered transfer applicants if they have completed high school, earned at least twelve semester hours of college credit after graduating high school and have not been enrolled in high school for at least one year.

Official transcripts of all academic work undertaken are a required part of the application; therefore, students may not reduce their academic credits in order to qualify as freshman applicants.

### CONFIDENTIALITY

In accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, only matriculated students have access to their permanent records. Applicants who are denied or decline our offer of admission are not provided such access.

### APPLICATION COMPONENTS

A complete application file to Rice University consists of the following:

- The Coalition Application **or** the Common Application and Rice Writing Supplement
- \$75 nonrefundable application fee or approved fee waiver
- Official high school transcript(s)
- Standardized testing. All freshman applicants for Fall 2019 must submit at least one of the following:
  - » The SAT (Essay is optional)
  - » The ACT (Writing is optional)
- School Report (counselor recommendation)
- Two Teacher Recommendations with at least one relating to the intended area of study.
- Official Transcript and Midyear Report Form (as soon as senior midyear grades become available)
- Architecture applicants must submit a PDF portfolio of artwork
- Music applicants must submit an Audition Profile Form

Early Decision applicants must also submit:

- The Rice Early Decision Agreement
- Official high school transcripts including grades from first marking period

International applicants must also submit:

- The Rice International Student Financial Statement
- Supporting Financial Documentation
- For students whose first language or language of instruction is not English, a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) is required.

Early Decision applicants are required to submit an Early Decision Agreement along with their application, as well as an official high school transcript which includes grades from the first marking period. Any change in your decision plan requires immediate notification in writing to the admission office.

### APPLICATION FEE

The \$75.00 application fee is due along with your application for admission. Fees must be paid online.

### APPLICATION ESSAY QUESTIONS

Below are questions included in the Rice writing supplement:

- There is a breadth of intellectual opportunities here at Rice. Further explain your intended major and other areas of academic focus you may explore. (150 word limit)
- What aspects of the Rice undergraduate experience excite you and led you to apply? (150 word limit)
- Rice is lauded for creating a collaborative atmosphere that enhances the quality of life for all members of our campus community. The Residential College System is heavily influenced by the unique life experiences and cultural traditions each student brings. What personal perspectives would you contribute to life at Rice? (500 word limit)

## HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

Enrolling students must complete a high school diploma (or equivalent). Sixteen college preparatory credits are required, including a minimum of four years of English, three years of math, two years of the same foreign language, two years of social studies, two years of laboratory science (excluding physical science), and three additional years of college preparatory courses of the student's choosing.

Applicants to the natural sciences and engineering schools must take advanced high school math (either trigonometry, elementary analysis, or precalculus), chemistry and physics (a second year of chemistry or biology may be substituted for physics).

Successful applicants generally have taken 20 or more college preparatory courses in high school, many at the college level.

## DECISION PLANS

You are required to select Early Decision or Regular Decision

## SCHOOLS OF STUDY

All applicants must indicate an intended school of study when applying: architecture, engineering, humanities, music, natural sciences or social sciences.

You should apply to the school that most accurately reflects your strengths and interests. Keep in mind, the choice of school you make as an applicant does not limit the courses you can take at Rice, and transfers from one division to another are common. Transferring into the music or architecture schools requires faculty approval. Students admitted to The Shepherd School of Music must pursue the music program for at least one year before changing schools.

Visit [rice.edu/academics](http://rice.edu/academics) for more information about Rice's schools of study.

## STANDARDIZED TESTING

All freshman applicants must take one of the following: (a) the SAT (Essay is optional) **or** (b) the ACT (Writing is optional).

We will accept either self-reported or official scores from applicants attending U.S. high schools in the application process. Freshman applicants who will graduate from high schools outside the U.S. will be required to submit an official score report at the time of application. Admitted students who choose to enroll at Rice will be required to submit official test scores prior to matriculation.

When reviewing SAT scores, we use the highest score from each section across all administrations. For the ACT, we look at the best composite score and the best subscores, regardless of whether those subscores are from the administration where the best composite score was earned. We hope applicants will officially report all scores knowing that we will recombine the sections to get the best possible set of scores for each candidate.

If a candidate submits both an SAT and an ACT score, the committee will consider the test that best enhances the application. Rice does not require a minimum score on these tests.

SAT Subject Tests are *recommended*, **not required** for all freshman applicants. Applicants who do not take the SAT Subject Tests will not

be disadvantaged in the review process. Those who elect to take SAT Subject tests should submit official scores related to their proposed area of study as follows:

School of Study	Recommended Subjects
Engineering	Math + a science (preferably chemistry or physics)
Natural Science	Math + a science
Architecture	Any two Subject Tests
Humanities	Any two Subject Tests
Music	Any two Subject Tests
Social Science	Any two Subject Tests

Applicants whose first language is not English are required to demonstrate English proficiency, which can be achieved in one of two ways. Those who have received two years of full-time instruction in English at a high school or college are not required to submit English proficiency testing. Applicants who have not received two years of full-time instruction in English must submit official test scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). The minimum acceptable score on the TOEFL Internet-based test is 100 or a 75 on the Paper-delivered test. The minimum acceptable score on the IELTS is 7.

**To be considered official, all scores must be sent directly from the testing organization.** Rice's College Board code, including TOEFL, is 6609 and our ACT code is 4152.

## OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS

Official high school/secondary school transcripts must include grades from ninth through eleventh grade as well as courses being taken in the senior year.

Transcripts must be submitted by your high school, preferably online via the Coalition Application or the Common Application, or by mail. Transcripts will not be accepted by fax or email.

## HOMESCHOOLED STUDENTS

Rice welcomes applications from students who have been homeschooled. To ensure our evaluation process is fully informed, each homeschooled applicant is encouraged to provide clear, detailed documentation of their curriculum, assessment tools and learning experiences. Rice requires the School Report and two Teacher Evaluations. At least two of the evaluations must be completed by someone not related to the student.

## INTERVIEWS

Although an interview is not a requirement, we recommend it as an excellent opportunity to communicate your interests and questions about Rice. Interviews are only offered to (rising) high school seniors, and it is the student's responsibility to request an interview.

Interviews are conducted on campus and off campus. The Admission Committee views on- and off-campus interviews equally in the admission review process. Interviews are subject to availability. Inability to have an interview will not negatively impact your application.

Deadline to request an off-campus interview:

Early Decision	Nov. 3, 2018
Regular Decision	Jan. 3, 2019

Students can request an off-campus interview through their Rice Admission Student Portal after submitting an application. Students can sign up for an on-campus interview as part of their campus visit experience at [admission.rice.edu/visit](http://admission.rice.edu/visit)

## APPLICATION STATUS

You will be notified via email how to access your Rice Admission Student Portal which is designed to assist you in tracking our receipt of your application materials and to communicate your final admission decision. The only valid notification of an admission decision is a formal communication from the Rice University Enrollment Division.

Rice University reserves the right to close your application if you are admitted under a binding Early Decision plan at another institution.

## ARCHITECTURE APPLICANTS

A portfolio of creative work is required for all applicants to the School of Architecture. The portfolio should demonstrate creative aptitude and potential and is not expected to be architectural in focus. The materials can include a variety of media, including freehand drawings/sketches, paintings, sculpture, photography/film, printmaking, graphic design, ceramics, theater design, installations, fashion design, etc. The work may have been produced as part of a formal course or independently. With the exception of work completed at college architecture discovery programs, the inclusion of drafting or CAD drawings is discouraged. In that regard, art courses are typically better preparation for architecture at Rice than drafting/architecture courses.

The School of Architecture does not accept CDs or DVDs. Submission is limited to a 15 MB PDF file of up to ten pages plus cover/title page with the applicant's name. More than one image per page is acceptable with .JPG, .JPEG, or .GIF images only. Page size should be horizontally oriented A4 or Letter (8.5"x11") and images should be between 150dpi and 300dpi in jpeg or tiff format. Captions of images with title, year of execution, media and size are encouraged. A one to two sentence description is also acceptable. All text should be in Arial or Helvetica typeface and background color should be either white or black. Sound and animation are not permitted. The file should be labeled with the applicant's name (example: JohnSmith.pdf).

The preferred method of submission is via the Rice Admission Student Portal using the Upload Materials tool. If submission through the Student Portal is not an option, you may email it to [riceapps@rice.edu](mailto:riceapps@rice.edu).

## MUSIC APPLICANTS

Applicants to The Shepherd School of Music must apply and request an audition by December 1. An audition/interview or preliminary submission is required for all music applicants.

To arrange appointments and obtain further details, contact Phyllis Smith, Admissions Assistant (email: [pws2@rice.edu](mailto:pws2@rice.edu)) or Geoffrey Scott, Director of Music Admissions (email: [geoffrey.scott@rice.edu](mailto:geoffrey.scott@rice.edu)), Rice University, Shepherd School of Music-MS 532, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, TX 77251-1892; telephone 713-348-4854.

For more information:

[music.rice.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-studies](http://music.rice.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-studies)

## RICE UNIVERSITY/BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE MEDICAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Rice/Baylor Medical Scholars Program offers students the unique opportunity to experience four years as an undergraduate at Rice, followed by admission to Baylor College of Medicine. Each year, 6 freshman applicants are admitted to Rice and to Baylor College of Medicine directly from high school. This is not an accelerated medical program; it is a four-year undergraduate and four-year medical school experience. Students selected for this program may major in any discipline at Rice, while successfully completing required coursework in the sciences. The goal of the program is to promote the education of future physicians who are scientifically competent, socially conscious and capable of applying insight from a wide breadth of academic disciplines to the field of modern medicine.

Students interested in the Rice/Baylor Medical Scholars Program may apply to Rice as either Early or Regular Decision candidates. Early Decision applicants must commit to Rice by January 1, regardless of the Baylor decision to be made later in the spring. Early Decision applicants to Rice must submit all Rice application materials by November 1; however, the Rice/Baylor Medical Scholars Application does not have to be completed until December 1. Regular Decision candidates must submit all required Rice application materials and the Rice/Baylor Medical Scholars Application by December 1. The Rice/Baylor Medical Scholars Application is available on our website at [admission.rice.edu/apply/freshman/ricebaylor-medical-scholars](http://admission.rice.edu/apply/freshman/ricebaylor-medical-scholars)

All finalists for the Rice/Baylor Program are notified in March and are expected to interview at Baylor College of Medicine in April on the designated interview date. Rice/Baylor Scholars are announced by the end of April.

Students admitted to Rice but not selected for the Rice/Baylor Medical Scholars Program may still apply to Baylor College of Medicine or any other medical school following their Rice undergraduate experience.

You are required to select Early Decision or Regular Decision when you apply. Any change in your decision plan requires immediate notification in writing to the admission office.

Early Decision applicants are required to submit an Early Decision Agreement along with their application, as well as an official high school transcript which includes grades from the first marking period.