

Written Application – Assessment Directions

- Provide each answer with a score from 1-10. At the end you will total the points out of 50. This will help rank and decide who we will interview. There are possible bonus points to be given (see notes at the bottom of this page).
- As you go, please fill out the overview sheet with your total score, if you want to interview the applicant or not, and any additional notes.

Things to Consider

Overall Important Qualities

- Leadership Potential
 - Student could have less service experience but more leadership and still be a good fit
- Initiative
- Diversity
- Team Player
- Range of Service – flexibility of teams
- Common Goal (not selfish)
- Good Communication Skills
- Enthusiasm
- Organization

Question #1 - Consider some of the issues facing small cities, like Trenton. What social issue are you most interested in? Why did you pick this issue and what makes that most important to you? What would you hope to learn about this issue while in the Bonner Program at TCNJ?

- Depth
 - Is the issue one that we care about—or should—and is there some depth here?
 - Is there any effort to think about the root causes of certain problems?
 - Is there a personal connection or passion for the issue?
 - Is there any evidence of extra effort (e.g. stats about the issue, visited a partner website, research, etc)?
 - Does the student have a realistic/accurate grasp on the issue?

Question #2 - Tell us about a meaningful service experience and what made you decide to engage in that service experience?

- Growth/Reflection
 - Does the student provide evidence that he or she is open to self-reflection, growth and change?
 - Did they show they have **leadership skills**?
 - Was there good motivation for this activity?
 - Did the student show awareness of the issue? (not just did the service because it looked or felt good)

Question #3 - Describe a difficult situation you've encountered in the last four years. How did you respond to that situation and what did you learn from that experience?

- Critical Thinking/Flexibility/Creativity
 - Was the student able to reflect on the challenge and learn from the experience?
 - Did the student show resiliency?
 - How did the student handle the situation, any innovative or creative ideas?
 - Show any signs of being a good team player?
 - Show an initiative to work out the problem?

Question #4 - What unique skills/qualities/experiences do you think you can bring to the Bonner Community Scholars program? What do you hope to get out of the Bonner program?

- Desire
 - Does the student show a desire to be part of the program?
 - Do they seem to want to grow as a person? Learn something new?
- Knowledge
 - Did they do research about our program?
 - Do they know what they could bring to the group?

List of Significant Service Experiences

- Engagement
 - Were all the activities one-day events? Weekly or monthly commitment?
 - Did he or she assume leadership roles?
 - Did the student take the **initiative** to start something on his or her own or with a group?
 - Were there any interesting things jump out?

Bonus Points

- Soul (0-2 Points)
 - Can you *feel* that they really want it?
- Special/Needed Skill Set (0-2 Points)
 - Are they bilingual? Would they be a great fit on a specific team?

Interview - Yes or Now

- Sometimes people's written application is not outstanding, but there is something special about them that drives you to want to interview that person.
- Please write yes and no for each person as you go through the list.
 - Some past readers have done all of their scoring, then gave their top scores a yes and reviewed the lower scores for any special applicants.