Bone Scholarship Application Materials and Instructions

Application deadline:

Monday, March 1, 2021 (4:30 pm).

Application submission:

- Application materials will be submitted online; the link was provided in the email you received notifying you of your nomination.
- Nominees will upload one document that contains all of the application materials; only Word or PDF files will be accepted.
- Nominees may upload an additional file of any format; for example, your project may be uploaded separately.
  - Video files should be saved as .mp4 files and must be smaller than 250 MB.

Nominees may submit hard copies of projects to the Honors Program, located in the Honors Program Building, 207 S. Main St., Normal, IL.

Any questions regarding the submission or receipt of application materials should be addressed to Julie Brooks at: jlbrook@ilstu.edu or (309) 438-2559.

Application materials:

Application materials submitted by the nominee should be double spaced and each section should be clearly identified.

1. Letters of Nomination and Recommendation

   **Purpose**
   
   To provide the selection committee with insight about your character, work ethic and accomplishments, from people who know you personally and/or professionally.

   **Criteria**
   
   Your complete application will contain four letters. Your department/school submitted two letters of nomination. You will submit two additional letters of recommendation from personal and/or professional contacts (such as work supervisors and/or Illinois State personnel). Letters can be submitted by one of the following methods:
   
   - Hard copy to:
     Bone Scholarship Selection Committee
     c/o Illinois State University
     6100 Honors Program
     Normal, IL 61790-6100
   - Electronically to jlbrook@ilstu.edu (preferred).
   - As part of your online application submission.

   The letters should include:
   
   - the relationship between you and the writer;
   - a description of your character, work ethic, and accomplishments; and,
   - a discussion of how you qualify as a Bone Scholar.
2. Significant Courses

Purpose To provide the selection committee with insight about what intrigues, excites, or inspires you in your role as a student.

Criteria Identify no more than four courses taken at Illinois State that have had a significant impact on your academic career.

In no more than one double-spaced page per course discuss why these courses had such a significant impact on your personal and/or professional development. Include when you took the course and what requirement it was fulfilling (major, minor, General Education, etc.).

3. Activities and Organizations

Purpose To provide the selection committee with insight regarding the breadth and depth of your involvement beyond academics.

Criteria Select no more than 10 Activities/Organizations to share. You may include campus activities as well as involvement in the Bloomington/Normal and/or your home community. Selected activities might include Registered Student Organizations (RSOs), employment, volunteer experiences, social, and/or civic involvement.

Your description of your Activities and Organizations, including your discussion of the three most meaningful, may include how Covid-19 affected your involvement and may have altered your ability to pursue your past activities.

Your list should include:

- A brief description of the Activity/Organization (no more than one, succinct paragraph)
- Dates and length of participation
- Duties and/or responsibilities
- Positions and/or offices held
- Honors and/or awards received

From your list of no more than 10 Activities/Organizations, you may select up to three to discuss as being among the most meaningful. When considering which experiences are the most meaningful, you might consider the transformative nature of the experience: the impact you made while engaging in the activity and the personal or professional growth you experienced as a result of your participation.

Label the experience as “Most Meaningful” and limit your discussion to one double spaced page per meaningful experience.

4. Project

Purpose To provide the selection committee with insight about your abilities as a scholar/student.

Criteria Submit one example of a project that represents your "best work." Papers, literary works, art projects, portfolios, and journals are examples of suitable projects. If it is necessary to submit your project as a hard copy, it will be returned to you after May 3, 2021.

In addition to the project itself, in no more than one double-spaced page:

- Provide a brief description of the project and the context in which it was created. If you are submitting a group project, be sure to describe and/or indicate your contribution.
5. Project Critique

**Purpose**  To provide the selection committee with insight about your ability to critically analyze your own work.

**Criteria**  In no more than three double-spaced pages:

- Explain why this project represents your “best work.”
- What is the significance of this project to your academic and/or professional development?
- Provide a critique of the project that discusses how it could have been improved or what you would have done differently.

6. Essay

**Purpose**  To provide the selection committee with insight about your ability to think critically about and reflect upon your experiences, consider future goals and possible achievements, and express yourself in writing (including style, organization, and grammar).

**Criteria**  In no more than four double-spaced pages, respond to the following prompt:

The Bone Scholarship recognizes students who combine broad and excellent academic achievement with campus and community engagement. Your nomination is a testament to the success you have attained as a student at Illinois State University; what will you do next?

Consider your overall experience at Illinois State, including your classes and involvement, and think ahead 5 – 10 years from now. What have you accomplished? What contributions have you made to your field, to your community, or to society? What challenges have you overcome?