

Biology Admission Essay Rubric

Q1: Describe your post-graduation goals and why a Biology degree is necessary for achieving your goals. (300-word limit)		
5	3	1
Goals are present and the student has made an exceptionally compelling case for why the Biology degree is essential to their goals.	Goals are present and the student has made a moderately compelling case for why the Biology degree is essential to their goals.	Goals are present but the student has made a weak case for why the Biology degree is essential to their goals.

Q2: Obtaining a 4-year degree is a challenge and an accomplishment. Describe a challenging past experience (either academic or nonacademic) and the tools or strategies you used to persevere through it. (300-word limit)		
5	3	1
An exceptionally compelling case is made. A challenging experience is described, with tools or strategies that clearly relate to persevering in that experience.	A moderately compelling case is made; all three components (experience, tools/strategies, & perseverance) are present.	A weak case is made; one or more component may be missing.

Q3: Collaboration within diverse groups of people is critical for advancing science. Describe at least one experience you have had in your life (either academic or nonacademic), and how that experience helped you better appreciate the value of diverse perspectives. (300-word limit)		
5	3	1
An exceptionally compelling case is made. A relevant experience is described and the value of diverse perspectives is articulated.	Moderately compelling case is made. Both elements are present.	A weak case is made.

Q4: (Optional) What else would you like us to know about you that is not reflected elsewhere in your application or academic history that may put other parts of your application in context? (300-word limit)

Q5: (Optional) If you are applying to the major a second time, please describe how you have strengthened/grown as an applicant between your first application and now. You might discuss revising your essays or your performance in science classes completed since your first application. (300 word limit)