
The 2017 Lang Opportunity Scholarship (LOS) Program Application

“Selection criteria include distinguished academic and extra-curricular achievement, leadership qualities, and demonstrated commitment to civic and social responsibility. As its central feature, the Program offers each Scholar the opportunity and related funding to conceive, design and carry out an Opportunity Project that creates a needed social resource, [generates] a significant social change or improves the condition of a community in the United States or abroad. The Program was [created] and endowed by Eugene M. Lang ’38.” – Adapted from the 2007 LOS Program Endowment Agreement

There are two pathways through which sophomores may apply to the LOS Program: either with or without a specific project design in mind. **We plan to give priority consideration to those applicants who both demonstrate a track record of scholarship and community engagement in a particular area of focus and who outline an innovative, sustainable, and replicable project design.** But students without a detailed project outline should absolutely still apply if they can demonstrate a track record of scholarship and community engagement in a particular area of focus, or a commitment to gain knowledge and experience in a particular focus area.

Applications are due by NOON on November 6, 2017. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. **Your last name and page number should appear on each page of the application.** When you are ready to upload your application, email this request to: jimagee1@swarthmore.edu; Jennifer will send the link. A completed application includes:

- A. Cover Page
- B. About You
- C. Pre-Project Design or Project Design Narrative
- D. Bibliography
- E. List of References

A. COVER PAGE You are welcome to design your cover page as you wish, however, please include the following information: first and last name, student ID#, class year, major and minor (if known), cell phone number, preferred email address; and focus area for a Lang Project (CHOOSE ONE): Arts, Media & Culture; Economic Development; Education & Access; Environment & Sustainability; Ethics & Human Rights; Identities & Inequalities; Politics & Public Policy; Public Health; Refugees & Immigration; Science & Society.

B. ABOUT YOU (1000 - 1500 WORDS) This essay is a chance for you to let the selection committee know who you are and which social problem or issue area(s) engage your passion. **What is your rationale for choosing and committing to a project in this particular area?** For instance, you might describe prior volunteer work, specific coursework, or personal background that speaks to the skills, leadership experiences, connections, and/or knowledge that have led you to focus on this issue. Or you might choose to narrate an experience in which you created or

participated in a project, program, or organization that innovated or created social value. What gap did it fill? What were the goals and outcomes? What role did you play? Why did you get involved? What was most difficult, challenging and/or fulfilling to you? What would you do differently? What did you learn?

Please respond to the “Pre-Project Design Narrative” prompt if you do not have a project design in mind, or “Project Design Narrative” prompts if you do.

C. Pre-Project Design Narrative (1500-2000 WORDS)

Describe what you know about the social problem or issue area(s) that you mentioned in Essay #1 in a context where you might like to implement a project.

- a.) Who or what is affected by this social problem or issue?
- b.) Describe what you know about the solutions that have been tried. In your response, share information related to at least two other organizations working on the same, or a similar, problem and/or with the same, or a similar, population.
- c.) What sort of solution appears to be missing and should be tried? Why?

Note: If you don't at present know the answer to the prompts above, then describe your strategy for learning as much as you can about the social problem and solutions that have been tried and thus position yourself to launch a project during your Swarthmore career.

OR

C. Project Design Narrative (1500-2000 WORDS)

- a) Project title
- b) Project abstract
- c) Describe what you know about the scholarly basis of the social problem or issue area(s) that will be the focus of your project work. Who or what is affected by this social problem or issue? Please cite your sources.
- d) What have others done to address this social problem in this community (or others comparable to it), and what were the problems with these approaches? Describe what you know about the solutions that have been tried. In your response, share information related to at least two other organizations working on the same, or a similar, problem and/or with the same, or a similar, population.
- e) This prompt asks you to create a logic model. A logic model is a one-page graphic that conveys your planned work (inputs, resources and activities) and your intended results (outputs, outcomes and impact). Never created a logic model before? Don't worry! Really helpful guidance is here: W.K. Kellogg Foundation (2006) Logic Model Development Guide. (Available online at <http://www.wkkf.org/resource-directory/resource/2006/02/wk-kellogg-foundation-logic-model-development-guide>).
- f) In what way(s) might your project provide an innovative alternative to approaches that have been tried in the past? Why do you think it would be more effective than or complementary to other solutions in existence?
- g) Why might a project like yours be needed in, and welcomed by, this community?

How do you know?

- h) What are the existing community assets or local resources?
- i) Who might you involve in this project (volunteers, participants, community members, etc.)? What sorts of role(s) might they play?
- j) What are the key strategies and activities of your project design?
- k) What do you hope will change as a result of your project in the short term? Long term?
- l) How might you measure your project's outcomes and impact?
- m) What kind of timeline might you envision for this project? Might you plan to implement the project during the school year, over summer or winter breaks, take time off from school, or something else?
- n) Describe your sustainability plans. How might the project be maintained by the community or by some other entity, replicated, and/or scaled up in the next five to ten years?

Bibliography: Please cite all sources.

D. BIBLIOGRAPHY

E. LIST OF REFERENCES

Please list the name, title, phone number, and email address for three references.

References must include at least one faculty member (*Note: This can be the same person who submitted a recommendation in support along with your letter of interest. They do not need to resubmit their recommendation.*) Other references might include: member(s) of the Dean's Office, past volunteer, job, or internship supervisor, etc. If you plan to replicate or extend another, extant project (for instance, another Lang Scholar's project), please have that individual submit a letter of support. If you are selected to be interviewed, we will contact your references and invite them to share their responses in advance of the interview date.

NOTE: If selected to be interviewed, you will be asked to supply an official transcript to the LOS selection committee.

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