Our individualized, holistic admission review process examines each applicant’s academic prowess, creativity, motivation, unique talents, leadership potential, and life experiences. Admission decisions are need-blind for U.S. citizens, permanent residents, DACA students and undocumented students who have lived in the U.S. for an extended period of time. For international citizens who live outside the U.S. and for those living in the U.S. with a valid visa, admission decisions are need-aware.

Read the following instructions thoroughly. Information on application requirements and arranging an admission interview is included in this document, as well as additional instructions on applying to the Rice/Baylor Medical Scholars Program, the School of Architecture, and The Shepherd School of Music.

Feel free to contact our office should you have any questions about our application process. We are pleased that Rice is among your college choices, and we look forward to reading your application soon.

**HOW TO APPLY**

To apply to Rice University, freshman applicants must use either the Coalition Application (www.mycoalition.org) or the Common Application (www.commonapp.org).

Students must choose only one of these application methods. Rice does not have a preference between the two applications. Students may not mix components from either option. Choose one application, and submit all required materials through that method.

**APPLICATION DEADLINES**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application Type</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Decision</td>
<td>Nov. 1, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Shepherd School of Music</td>
<td>Dec. 1, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice/Baylor Medical Scholars Program</td>
<td>Dec. 1, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular Decision</td>
<td>Jan. 1, 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: A comprehensive application checklist (with accompanying deadlines) can be found on the last page of this document.

**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.

**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)
- Official test scores sent directly from the testing agency. All freshman applicants for Fall 2018 must submit at least one of the following:
  - The new, redesigned SAT (Reading/Writing/Language and Math - SAT Essay is optional) and two Subject Tests in fields related to their proposed area of study
  - The ACT (Writing is optional)
- School Report
- One Teacher/Instructor Evaluation
- Official Transcript and Midyear Report Form (as soon as senior midyear grades become available)
- Architecture applicants must submit a Microsoft PowerPoint 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
- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) for students whose first language or language of instruction is not English

**APPLICATION FEE**

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

Students requesting a fee waiver may submit proof of a fee waiver for the SAT or ACT, or eligibility for the federal school lunch program, or a letter from your school counselor.

**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) and 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 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.

**SCHOOLS OF STUDY**
All applicants must indicate an intended school of study from among the following: 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 that 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 [http://admission.rice.edu/Academics](http://admission.rice.edu/Academics) for more information about Rice’s schools of study.

**STANDARDIZED TESTING**
All freshman applicants for Fall 2018 must take one of the following: (a) the new, redesigned SAT (Reading/Writing/Language and Math - SAT Essay is optional) and two Subject Tests in fields related to their proposed area of study or (b) the ACT (Writing is optional).

Rice uses the highest scores from any sitting of the new SAT in order to consider each applicant’s most positive test results. Recognizing that this policy could disadvantage those students who cannot afford repeated testing or expensive test prep coaching, we believe a comprehensive testing history provides us with the appropriate context required for making a fair judgment of what the test scores mean in a holistic admission process. Therefore, we require all applicants submitting the SAT to submit all scores to Rice.

The ACT’s definition of a composite score is the average of the four multiple-choice scale scores from a single administration of the exam. Therefore, it is Rice’s policy to use the highest ACT composite score in admission consideration from a single administration.

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.

**Scores must be sent directly to Rice from the testing agency.** Rice’s College Board code is 6609; our ACT code is 4152.

Applicants whose first language and language of instruction is not English are required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS).

If you are submitting IELTS score(s), the minimum acceptable score is 7. If you are submitting TOEFL score(s), the minimum acceptable score is 600 on the paper-based test or 100 on the Internet-based test. TOEFL uses Rice’s College Board code, which is 6609.

**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 that our evaluation process is fully informed, each homeschooled applicant is encouraged to provide clear, detailed documentation of his or her curriculum, assessment tools, and learning experiences. Rice requires the School Report and one Teacher Evaluation. Either the School Report or the Teacher Evaluation 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.

**On-campus interviews:**
Reservations are required for all on-campus interviews and spaces are limited. (For any student completing high school in less than four years, an on-campus interview with an admission officer is strongly recommended.)

To register for an on-campus interview, go to [http://futureowls.rice.edu/futureowls/On_Campus_Interviews.asp](http://futureowls.rice.edu/futureowls/On_Campus_Interviews.asp).

**Off-campus interviews:**
Students must submit an application for admission in order for an off-campus interview request to be fulfilled. For Early Decision applicants, your application must be submitted by November 1.
and your request for an off-campus interview must be submitted by November 3. For Regular Decision applicants, your application must be submitted by December 11 and your request for an off-campus interview must be submitted by December 13.

To request an off-campus interview, go to http://futureowls.rice.edu/futureowls/Off_Campus_Interview.asp.

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 Dean for Undergraduate Enrollment.

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 JPEG, 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: JohnDoe.pdf).

The preferred method of submission is directly to 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.

MUSIC APPLICANTS
Applicants to The Shepherd School of Music must apply and request an audition by December 1. An audition or preliminary recording is required for all performance music applicants.

To arrange appointments and obtain further details, contact Phyllis Smith, Admissions Assistant (email: pws2@rice.edu) or Geoffrey Scott, Director of Music Admissions (email: 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: http://music.rice.edu/undergraduate/index.shtml
### Application Checklist

**Freshman Admission 2017-2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Early Decision</th>
<th>Shepherd School of Music</th>
<th>Regular Decision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Application (Coalition Application or Common Application)</td>
<td>11/1/2017</td>
<td>12/1/2017</td>
<td>1/1/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice Supplement (Common Application)</td>
<td>11/1/2017</td>
<td>12/1/2017</td>
<td>1/1/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75 Application Fee (or waiver request)</td>
<td>11/1/2017</td>
<td>12/1/2017</td>
<td>1/1/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Decision Agreement Form</td>
<td>11/1/2017</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Report (transcript plus counselor recommendation)</td>
<td>11/1/2017</td>
<td>12/1/2017</td>
<td>1/1/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Evaluation</td>
<td>11/1/2017</td>
<td>12/1/2017</td>
<td>1/1/2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last Date to take SAT &amp; SAT Subject Tests -or- ACT (Writing is optional)</td>
<td>11/4/2017</td>
<td>12/2/2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Request an Interview (optional) On-campus interview</td>
<td>11/1/2017</td>
<td>12/9/2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Off-campus interview -Application submitted by</td>
<td>11/1/2017</td>
<td>12/1/2017</td>
<td>12/11/2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>-Interview request submitted by</td>
<td>11/3/2017</td>
<td>12/13/2017</td>
<td>12/13/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midyear Report Form (transcript plus counselor form)</td>
<td>As soon as first semester grades are available</td>
<td>As soon as first semester grades are available</td>
<td>As soon as first semester grades are available</td>
</tr>
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<td>Architecture Applicants Only</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electronic Portfolio</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Music Applicants Only</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shepherd School Audition Profile Form</td>
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<td>12/1/2017</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice/Baylor Applicants Only</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electronic Portfolio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Need-Based Financial Aid Applicants</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rice International Student Financial Statement</td>
<td>11/1/2017</td>
<td>12/1/2017</td>
<td>1/1/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Supporting Documents</td>
<td>11/1/2017</td>
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<td>1/1/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOEFL or IELTS score</td>
<td>11/1/2017</td>
<td>12/1/2017</td>
<td>1/1/2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notification**

Admission decisions from Rice University by:

|                | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mid-December 2017 | 4/1/2018 | 4/1/2018 |


Go to [http://financialaid.rice.edu/undergraduates/applyforaid/](http://financialaid.rice.edu/undergraduates/applyforaid/) for more information on financial aid requirements, forms and deadlines.