



# APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS FRESHMAN ADMISSION 2017-2018

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](http://www.mycoalition.org)) or the Common Application ([www.commonapp.org](http://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:

Early Decision	Nov. 1, 2017
The Shepherd School of Music	Dec. 1, 2017
Rice/Baylor Medical Scholars Program	Dec. 1, 2017
Regular Decision	Jan. 1, 2018

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)
  - » 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 PDF 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> for more information about Rice's schools of study.

## STANDARDIZED TESTING

All freshman applicants must take one of the following: (a) the new, redesigned SAT (Reading/Writing/Language and Math - SAT Essay is optional) **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.

SAT Subject Tests are *recommended*, **not required** for all freshman applicants. Applicants who do not take the SAT Subject Tests will not be disadvantaged in the review process. Those who elect to

take SAT Subject tests should submit official scores related to their proposed area of study as follows:

School of Study	Recommended Subjects
Engineering	Math + a science (preferably chemistry or physics)
Natural Science	Math + a science
Architecture	Any two Subject Tests
Humanities	Any two Subject Tests
Music	Any two Subject Tests
Social Science	Any two Subject 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](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 .JPG, .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](mailto: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](mailto:pws2@rice.edu)) or Geoffrey Scott, Director of Music Admissions (email: [geoffrey.scott@rice.edu](mailto: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>

## **RICE UNIVERSITY/BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE MEDICAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

The Rice/Baylor Medical Scholars Program allows up to 6 freshman candidates to be accepted to Rice and to Baylor College of Medicine directly from high school. This is not an accelerated medical program; it is a four-year undergraduate and four-year medical school experience. Students selected for this program may major in any discipline while at Rice. Upon graduation from Rice, students continue their education at Baylor College of Medicine.

Students interested in the Rice/Baylor Program may apply to Rice as Early or Regular Decision candidates. Early Decision applicants must commit to Rice by January 1, regardless of the Baylor decision to be made later in the spring. Early Decision applicants to Rice must submit all Rice application materials by November 1; however, the Rice/Baylor Medical Scholars Application does not have to be submitted until December 1. Regular Decision candidates must submit all required Rice application materials and the Rice/Baylor Medical Scholars Application by December 1. The Rice/Baylor Medical Scholars Application is available on our website at [http://futureowls.rice.edu/futureowls/Medical\\_Scholars.asp](http://futureowls.rice.edu/futureowls/Medical_Scholars.asp).

All finalists for the Rice/Baylor Program are notified in March and are expected to interview at Baylor College of Medicine in April on the designated interview date. Rice/Baylor Scholars are announced by the end of April.

Students admitted to Rice but not selected for the Rice/Baylor Medical Scholars Program may still apply to Baylor College of Medicine or any other medical school following their Rice undergraduate experience.



# APPLICATION CHECKLIST FRESHMAN ADMISSION 2017-2018

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPLICATION	EARLY DECISION	SHEPHERD SCHOOL OF MUSIC	REGULAR DECISION
<input type="checkbox"/> The Application (Coalition Application <b>or</b> Common Application)	11/1/2017	12/1/2017	1/1/2018
<input type="checkbox"/> Rice Supplement (Common Application)	11/1/2017	12/1/2017	1/1/2018
<input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Application Fee (or waiver request)	11/1/2017	12/1/2017	1/1/2018
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Decision Agreement Form	11/1/2017	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
<input type="checkbox"/> School Report (transcript <u>plus</u> counselor recommendation)	11/1/2017	12/1/2017	1/1/2018
<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher Evaluation	11/1/2017	12/1/2017	1/1/2018
<input type="checkbox"/> Last Date to take SAT (Essay is optional)	11/4/2017	12/2/2017	12/2/2017
-or-			
ACT (Writing is optional)	10/28/2017	12/9/2017	12/9/2017
SAT Subject Tests (Recommended, not required)	11/4/2017	12/2/2017	12/2/2017
<input type="checkbox"/> Request an Interview (optional)			
On-campus interview	11/1/2017	12/9/2017	12/9/2017
Off-campus interview			
-Application submitted by	11/1/2017	12/1/2017	12/11/2017
-Interview request submitted by	11/3/2017	12/13/2017	12/13/2017
<input type="checkbox"/> Midyear Report Form (transcript <u>plus</u> counselor form)	As soon as first semester grades are available	As soon as first semester grades are available	As soon as first semester grades are available
<b>ARCHITECTURE APPLICANTS ONLY</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Portfolio	11/1/2017	Not Applicable	1/1/2018
<b>MUSIC APPLICANTS ONLY</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Shepherd School Audition Profile Form	Not Applicable	12/1/2017	Not Applicable
<b>RICE/BAYLOR APPLICANTS ONLY</b>			
Go to <a href="http://futureowls.rice.edu/uploadedFiles/Future_Owls/RiceBaylorMSPApplicationChecklist.pdf">http://futureowls.rice.edu/uploadedFiles/Future_Owls/RiceBaylorMSPApplicationChecklist.pdf</a> for an application checklist.			
<b>INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS ONLY</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Rice International Student Financial Statement	11/1/2017	12/1/2017	1/1/2018
<input type="checkbox"/> Financial Supporting Documents	11/1/2017	12/1/2017	1/1/2018
<input type="checkbox"/> TOEFL or IELTS score	11/1/2017	12/1/2017	1/1/2018
<b>NEED-BASED FINANCIAL AID APPLICANTS</b>			
Go to <a href="http://financialaid.rice.edu/undergraduates/applyforaid/">http://financialaid.rice.edu/undergraduates/applyforaid/</a> for more information on financial aid requirements, forms and deadlines.			
<b>NOTIFICATION</b>			
Admission decisions from Rice University by:	Mid-December 2017	4/1/2018	4/1/2018