

PAWS SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP 2025

ESSAY GUIDELINES AND RUBRIC

In a well-developed essay, please address the following questions:

Discuss service project(s) with which you have participated. What was the impact of your service, and how did your student service-learning build a bridge between you and the community which you served? What did you learn about yourself and others as a result of your service?

Please also keep in mind the following criteria: 1000 words or less, typed, double spaced.

Each applicant's essay will be scored using the rubric below:

	20	15	10	5
GENERAL REFLECTION	Applicant presents a thoughtful reflection on service, recounting detailed examples of service.	Applicant completes a reflection on service and recounted past service experience/s.	Applicant completes a reflection on service. Little detail is provided on the experience/s.	Applicant attempts to complete reflection on service, but no details about the experience/s are included.
SENSE OF CARING FOR AND ABOUT OTHERS	Applicant's reflections show deep personal understanding of the importance of service and the ability to make a difference.	Applicant's reflections show a growing understanding of the importance of service and the ability to make a difference.	Applicant's reflections show a limited understanding of the importance of service.	Applicant's reflections show that s/he is largely unaffected by the service and her/his ability to make a difference.
DEVELOPMENT AND ORGANIZATION	Applicant's essay has an engaging introduction that orients readers and provides a strong conclusion. It also establishes a natural/logical sequence of reflection, using effective transitions to convey this.	Applicant's essay has an effective introduction and provides a conclusion that sums up the reflection. It has a logical flow, but needs more transitions.	Applicant's essay has an introduction that needs more development and lacks a strong conclusion. It includes unnecessary information and may seem choppy.	Applicant's essay lacks an effective introduction and ends abruptly. It also includes distracting information and has no clear sequence of events/thoughts
LANGUAGE USAGE	Applicant's essay maintains a clear point of view, uses relevant descriptive details, and shows a command of the English language conventions.	Applicant's essay maintains a point of view and includes relevant descriptive details. There may be a few errors in conventions.	Applicant's essay has some lapses in point of view, lacks effective descriptive details, and has some distracting errors in conventions.	Applicant's essay lacks clear point of view, lacks or offers no effective details and has major errors in conventions.