

APPLICATION ESSAYS

All three essays should be typed and double-spaced. These required essays are an important part of the admission application, so please carefully consider your response. If you are an international applicant, please include a statement of your intent to return immediately to your home country following the completion of your degree.

1. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION ESSAY (for all degree applicants)

Please read the article posted at smu.edu/perkinessay and respond to the question posed at the end of the article. Your typed, double-spaced essay response should be no more than one page. (If you do not have Internet access, please contact the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid for a copy that can be mailed.)

2. PERSONAL STATEMENT ESSAY (for all applicants)

For M.Div. Applicants

Please write a two-page essay on how God is at work in your life, and how this motivates you to apply for admission. This essay should include the following: **1]** your major studies and interests in college and extracurricular activities, **2]** the focus of your activities if you have been out of college for one year or more, **3]** your experiences in church work or other types of service, **4]** your experiences in business and secular employment, **5]** your current status with your denomination in preparation for ministry if you plan to seek ordination.

For C.M.M. Applicants

Please write a two-page essay on how God is at work in your life, and how this motivates you to apply for admission. Your essay should specifically address how your vocational goals, college studies, employment and church experience relate to your choice of either the Christian Education or Urban Ministry track of the C.M.M. degree.

For M.T.S. Applicants

Please write a two-page essay on how God is at work in your life, and how this motivates you to apply for admission. Your essay should describe your interest in advanced theological study, indicating which discipline or area of concentration (Bible, Theology/Ethics, History, Ministerial Studies) you hope to focus on during your course of study. Please be specific about your particular research or scholastic interests. (Note that the M.T.S. concentration in Church Music and Worship requires a Master's degree in Music.)

For M.S.M. Applicants

M.S.M. applicants must include a complete listing of major musical work and an audition tape, if not auditioning in person. Please see the audition requirements for both the Choral/Vocal and Organ concentrations at smu.edu/msmaudition.

Please write a two-page essay about how your vocational goals, formal music background and education, church experience and service in worship have motivated you to apply for admission. Specifically, your essay should include the following:

1] how God is at work in your life, **2]** your music education level and experience, **3]** your choice of M.S.M. concentration (Organ or Choral/Vocal), **4]** your vision of the particular ministry.

For Nondegree Applicants

Write a one-page essay explaining your plans for study at Perkins School of Theology. Describe your interest in theological study, including the specific course(s) for which you plan to enroll and how this coursework relates to your vocational goals or personal enrichment.

3. PERSONAL ASSESSMENT ESSAY (for all applicants)

In a one-page, double-spaced essay, describe any personal accomplishments, experiences or aspect of your background – including family educational background, socioeconomic history, personal hardship experiences and/or ethnic background – which you believe will contribute a distinctive perspective that can add to the diversity of the SMU/Perkins educational environment. Explain how your accomplishments, experiences or background have affected your viewpoints and how your perspective will enhance the learning atmosphere at the Perkins School of Theology. Specifically, what perspective will you bring to Perkins' academic community, including the classroom, that you believe might otherwise be missing or underrepresented?

EMPLOYMENT, LEADERSHIP, CHARACTER AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Current Employment/Profession

PROFESSION/EMPLOYER NAME	CITY	STATE	LENGTH OF CURRENT EMPLOYMENT
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1. Please provide a list of honors and awards that demonstrate qualities of character and leadership.
2. Please list any leadership positions held within the church/community, including extracurricular, volunteer and service activities. You may include religious work in which you were involved in college.