

Personal Essay Guidelines

St. Peter's Hospital College of Nursing

Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing

The Admissions and Progression Committee requires that you write an essay with information about yourself that is not otherwise explained or addressed in this application. Such information might include a healthcare-related experience, a personal and/or work experience, an explanation of why your academic record may not reflect your true potential as a student, or your reasons for choosing to become a nurse. Write from your own perspective – why nursing is a good fit for you, and where you believe a career in nursing will take you.

You should:

- Provide insight into your plans
- State your professional goals
- Give examples from your life that are relevant to your goals
- Address how becoming a nurse fits into your life goals

Be honest – write about your true interests and values.

Essay format:

- Addressed to the Admission and Progression Committee
- No longer than the equivalent of two typed double spaced pages, 12-point font

Your essay will be scored by the Committee according the attached rubric. Carefully review your essay before you submit it to make sure that it reflects who you are and that the essay is of high quality.

APPLICATION ESSAY RUBRIC
St. PETER'S HOSPITAL COLLEGE OF NURSING
SAMARITAN HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING

Criteria	Writing is good (2 points)	Writing is fair (1 point)	Writing is poor (0 points)
Mechanics: Spelling, Punctuation, Syntax, Grammar	Contains no more than one minor problem with sentence structure, standard usage including agreement of tense and case, or error in spelling, capitalization, and punctuation. Mechanics enhance meaning.	Occasional problems with sentence structure, standard usage including agreement of tense and case, occasional errors in spelling, capitalization, and punctuation. Errors do not distract from the overall readability and meaning of the essay.	Multiple problems with sentence structure, lapses in agreement of tense and case, multiple errors in spelling, capitalization, and punctuation. Multiple errors interfere with overall readability and meaning of the essay.
Development	The essay maintains a clear, specific focus. The essay is unified and coherent.	Focus somewhat unclear or off-topic. Somewhat meandering.	Meanders or is off-topic. Focus unclear.
Language	Writer uses intentional and effective language choices that make the writer's voice personal and honest. It is mostly devoid of clichés, vagueness and laziness with language. It gives a clear picture of the writer.	Writer uses somewhat clichéd or unclear language choices that make the writer's voice generic or stereotypical. It may not further the essay's purpose due to blandness. It gives an unclear picture of the writer.	Writer uses basic, clichéd or very unclear language choices that give no voice at all. It gives no picture of the writer.
Persona	Writer comes across appropriately to the essay's target audience. Essay uses appropriate tone and details to present writer as an appropriate candidate for admission.	Writer comes across inconsistently to the essay's target audience. Essay's tone and/or details could cast the writer as a less-than-desirable candidate for admission.	Writer's tone and/or details present the writer as an undesirable candidate for admission.