ZAYTUNA COLLEGE

Zaytuna College Fall 2021 Admissions Essay Questions

The application questions are designed to give the Admissions Committee an opportunity to assess your interest in and preparation for attending Zaytuna College. Your first two essays may be as long as 1000 or as short as 600 words. In the last essay, however, limit yourself to 300 to 400 words. Regardless of length, your task is to produce your best writing. A representative sample of your writing will show the Admissions Committee how well you express yourself and give some indication of the quality of your mind and thinking.

In addition to what you say about yourself and your topics of discourse, committee readers will be acutely aware of the mechanics of your writing, especially grammar and syntax; the logical organization of your thoughts; and whether your style of communication is well calibrated to what you have to express.

Lastly, the essay prompts are designed to stimulate in the best applicants a genuine spirit of reflection about what the Zaytuna College curriculum may offer them. In that light, I hope you enjoy writing these essays as much as we look forward to reading them. All the best to you.

Sincerely,
Faisal Hamid
Director of Admissions

Questions

Long answer (600 to 1000 words)

1) At Zaytuna College, we teach both the Islamic and Western traditions. Our students read the great authors of the Western tradition, ranging from Aristotle to Dostoevsky. Discuss a book from the Western tradition that has particular significance for you. What makes this book great in your view? In what ways has this book influenced how you think?

2) Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or whom do you turn to when you want to learn more?

Short answer (300 to 400 words)

3) How do you understand Zaytuna's approach to Islamic studies and why does this appeal to you? How is our approach similar to or different from how you have already studied Islam?