



ARCHIMEDEAN
UPPER CONSERVATORY

College Application Counselor Recommendation Letter Student Questionnaire

"To kindle the art of thinking through the unique teaching of advanced mathematics and the Greek language."

Even though you may not be able to see your letters, YOU play an incredibly important role in helping us pen the best letters possible on your behalf!

Please fill out this form by typing your answers into the spaces provided using Adobe Reader. Do not handwrite.

Adobe Reader is available free for download at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

STUDENT INFORMATION

Full Name _____

Student I.D. # _____

E-mail Address _____

COUNSELOR LETTER OVERVIEW

- ◆ Whereas teacher letters highlight the unique aspects and abilities of a student as seen through interactions and achievements in the classroom, the counselor letter serves to capture the larger picture of where you come from, who you are, and what you are capable of.
- ◆ Counselor letters serve to highlight your collective achievements in and also out of the classroom, your talents and special skills, your growth as a student and person, your contributions to your family, school, and community, your ability to overcome obstacles and hardships, your work ethic and level of drive, your unique personality traits and demeanor, your potential to be a successful college student and more as displayed throughout your high school years and lifetime.
- ◆ One counselor letter will be written on behalf of each senior. To do so, A.U.C.'s College Office will be relying heavily on personal interactions with and observations of you as your Counselor and Teacher, as well as faculty input, your official College Resume, and Questionnaires such as this one.
- ◆ Understand that, to maintain the integrity and authenticity of the message, letters of recommendation are highly confidential. **No student or family member will be granted permission to review, alter, or access the content of any recommendation letter.**

STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS

- ◆ Answer each the following questions with as much detail as possible. **TAKE TIME TO REALLY THINK ABOUT YOUR ANSWERS! The more information you provide, the better we can help make the strongest possible case for your acceptance.**
- ◆ If there is any topic you wish not to share with College Admissions' Offices or A.U.C.'s College Office, you are not forced to do so. If you don't mind sharing a specific piece of information with your Counselors here at A.U.C., but are unsure if this information is beneficial to share with a College Admission's Office, please make a note of that in your answer so we can discuss the matter further.
- ◆ Once you have completed this questionnaire, you will upload this PDF document to Archie based on your Counselor's instructions.

The extra effort elaborating and providing quality responses really does make a difference, aiding us in writing a powerful, detail-rich, illuminating counselor letter of recommendation.

STUDENT QUESTIONS

- a. How do you feel you handled the transition into A.U.C. from middle school or your previous high school? What were you good at and where did you struggle? What did you do to correct any initial mistakes made or frustrations encountered?

b. What are you currently most excited about and most afraid of when it comes to starting your college career?

c. How do you feel you will handle your transition into college life? In what ways do you feel ready to handle the responsibilities ahead?

2. a. Will you be the first in your immediate family to attend a four-year college or university in the U.S.?

b. Has/have your parent(s) completed any college-level education, even if abroad? If one (or more) has, please elaborate as well on what country he/she/they studied in, what level of education he/she/they reached, and what field of study he/she/they completed?

c. How do you feel that your parent's(s') educational background has helped or hindered your success in school and in your understanding of the college application process here in the U.S.?

3. a. Which courses have you enjoyed in high school the most? Why? *Try to dig deep to avoid superficial, cliché, or generic answers.*

b. Which courses in high school have given you the most difficulty? Why and what steps, if any, did you take to overcome these challenges?

c. Sometimes scheduling conflicts do not allow a student to take a class they would have wanted to. Do you want to remind us of a course conflict or other academic/curricular incident that you would want mentioned or clarified in your letter?

4. Describe your most stimulating intellectual experience in recent years. Elaborate not only on what it was, but also why or how it impacted you.

5. a. What three adjectives would you use to describe yourself? What is your reasoning for your picks? Help us understand YOU even better!

b. What three adjectives would your parent(s) use to describe you?

c. What three adjectives would your close friends use to describe you?

d. What three adjectives would a teacher use to describe you . . . and WHY???

6. a. Identify those accomplishments that make you feel proud of yourself? Please describe in detail one or two such Academic Accomplishments.

b. Please describe in detail one or two such Personal Accomplishments. Be sure to elaborate on why you are so proud of these achievements.

7. Any disciplinary record accumulated in high school must be divulged to admissions' offices. If you were involved in any disciplinary incident(s) for which you were written up, please explain what happened, what you were written up for, what you learnt, and how you may have changed.

8. If one were to look at your high school transcript and see your full academic performance starting with the high school classes taken in middle school up until the last courses most recently completed, explain whether or not your grades and G.P.A. serve overall as an accurate measure of your academic abilities, work ethic, and potential. Why or why not?

9. a. Realities differ for everyone, some individuals face complexities, obstacles, or responsibilities that others may not deal with. What conditions, changes, or situations occurred in your high school years (or even prior) that have influenced you or your participation in the classroom or extracurricular activities? Explain. *(Examples may include illness, deaths, births, moves, divorce, marriage, daily travel time to school, financial strains, family responsibilities, personal realizations, etc...)*
- b. How did or have these factors affect you personally, what did you learn from living through them, and what do you want admissions' officers to know about where you stand today and going forward?
10. Elaborate on your greatest strengths. These may relate to personal traits, academic talents, athletic strengths, artistic accomplishments, etc...
11. a. What are your current career goals?
- b. How are these goals shaping your choices of college major and postsecondary plans?
12. Do you have a hidden talent or quirk we may not know of? (Ex: You are an avid juggler, an amazing cook, a spoken word poet, an ant expert...)
13. Are there any hobbies or special interests you want us to know about and highlight?
14. Is there an event/person/book/film that has impacted you significantly or changed your way of thinking or being? Please explain in detail.
15. If a college were required to make an admission decision between you and someone else who appears to have equal academic credentials and an equally strong resume, what additional evidence, not discussed in any question above, would you present in order to tilt the decision in your favor and cause the admissions' committee to select you? What makes you unique among candidates and the better choice in the end?

***** If there is anything else that you feel would be helpful, but was not asked about, or if you feel you needed more space to elaborate further on a question, please attached a typed page with additional information.**