

Presidents Leadership Class – University of Colorado at Boulder

Frequently Asked Application Questions and Answers



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Q: What is PLC looking for when selecting its next class of scholars?

A: The Presidents Leadership Class utilizes a four-pronged approach to selecting its scholars. The selection criterion includes: 1) Intellectual Curiosity; 2) Leadership Potential; 3) Commitment Outside of Self; and 4) Unique Contribution.

Intellectual Curiosity – Do you challenge yourself to grow intellectually? Do you take higher-level classes and/or pursue a variety of academic interests? PLC is looking for students who excel in school, but more importantly explore a variety of programs and intellectual resources. You do not have to have a 4.0 or better Grade Point Average to gain admission into PLC. Rather, we look for students who are enthusiastic about learning and are eager to grow.

Leadership Potential – PLC looks for students who have an understanding of leadership: the differences between leadership approaches, methods effective leaders utilize, an understanding of personal leadership style, to give a few examples. We also look for leadership roles and pursuits through your high school career. These do not need to be high-profile leadership roles, such as student body president or team captain. Rather, we like to see a firm commitment and contribution in any area of interest.

Commitment Outside of Self – The Presidents Leadership Class strongly values in its scholars a commitment to serving others, whether it is the homeless in your community, students at your school, a local non-profit organization, or your family. We are looking for students who give outside of themselves and demonstrate undeniable compassion and/or interest in serving other communities around them.

Unique Contribution – scholars in the PLC program all have a unique contribution—that is, a component of their personality, life experience, background, culture or way of thinking that is different from any other and may prove enlightening to other fellow scholars. What can you share with PLC that nobody else can offer?

The Presidents Leadership Class is not looking for a specific “mold” of student. Each of the scholars currently in the program is different in their approach to certain issues; their leadership style, their interests, both academic and extracurricular, and most importantly, character, all differ among PLC scholars. Despite their differences, all PLC scholars exhibit intellectual curiosity, leadership potential, commitment outside of self, and a unique contribution. These four selection criteria must come across in your application to be considered for an interview. Do your best! Be creative! Do not be modest!

Q: When is the application deadline?

A: The application deadline is February 1st, 2010. All application materials, including: completed application form and essays, (2) recommendation forms, and an official high school transcript (with the transcript form) must be received in the PLC office by the deadline.

Q: Can the application be postmarked by February 1st, 2010?

A: No, applications must be received on or before February 1st in the PLC Office for equal consideration. Please give yourself plenty of time to complete and submit your application materials, taking into account postal system delays.

Q: Do *all* application materials, including teacher recommendations and an official transcript have to be received by February 1st, 2010?

A: Yes, teacher recommendations and high school transcripts must be received by the application deadline. Please give your teachers and counselors plenty of time to complete the recommendation forms, print transcripts, and mail the materials, taking into account postal delays. As a bit of advice, give recommendation forms to your teachers and request official transcripts no later than four weeks prior to the application deadline.

Q: When should I mail the application to ensure that it is received by the application deadline?

A: We strongly encourage all applicants to complete and submit the application online. It takes less time to fill out and saves paper and postage costs. However, if you decide to mail your application with general postage, send your completed application materials no less than two weeks before the application deadline of February 1st, 2010. It is always good to be

on the safe side. You also have the option to speed up the mailing process by sending your application certified or via a corporate postal company (i.e. FedEx, UPS, DHL). If you believe your application will arrive late, you may fax your application to the PLC office at **(303) 492-1620**. Official transcripts, however, will not be accepted via fax. If your official transcript will arrive late, you may fax a copy to complete your application file and then send the official transcript via mail. If you would like to confirm whether your application and other application materials were received, follow-up by calling the PLC office or sending an email. These contact numbers are listed in the header.

Q: Do I have to take both the ACT and SAT to qualify for PLC?

A: No, you are not required to take both the ACT and the SAT, but must have taken at least one. It is acceptable to report both scores on the application if you have taken both tests. Also, we are not looking exclusively for students who score well on these tests. While these scores do, at times, indicate intellectual aptitude, they do not predict leadership ability, commitment outside of oneself, and/or uniqueness. We therefore accept students into PLC with a range of standardized test scores.

Q: Do I have to answer all of the essays or do I choose from the list?

A: Yes, you must answer every essay question, essays 1-5. These essays, however, must be limited to a word count, indicated in the *italic font* directly below the essay prompt. The “essays” for this application are more like short answer responses—limited to 250-300 words. Please be as concise as you can, while still answering precisely and creatively. You may choose to write an optional essay if you feel that the required essay responses do not adequately portray your character, interests, or life experiences.

Q: From whom should I get my required two recommendations?

A: The best recommendations come from teachers, counselors or other professionals that know you very well. We would prefer at least one of the two required recommendations come from a teacher, guidance counselor or school principal, but if other coaches, supervisors or professional community members know you better it is wise to utilize those resources.

Q: When will I be notified of my application status?

A: Applications will be reviewed immediately after the application deadline of February 1st, 2010. Notifications will be sent out by mail starting mid-February and will continue throughout the week. If you are selected as one of the 120 in-state or 30 out-of-state students to interview from the application pool of over 500, an interview time, date and location will be arranged via phone starting mid-February.

Q: If I am an out-of-state student, do I need to travel to Colorado for an interview?

A: No, interviews for out-of-state students are conducted over the phone. Typically one or both Assistant Directors for Recruitment and Selection conduct the interview along with the Program Director or Executive Director of PLC. The time and date of these interviews is arranged via email in mid-February.