

Place of the new RTW essay in the admission criteria

The RTW essay provides an additional criteria for our admission committee to consider. Some students' GPA may place them on a lower ranking; however, their good performance in the essay shows their ability to express themselves in writing in a coherent manner. A good performance in the essay may compensate for their lower GPA and hence they may be admitted to the major in economics. Without the provision of a RTW essay giving these students the opportunity to show their reading comprehension, analytical thinking, and writing ability, this group of students may have previously been rejected. We intend to correct this anomaly by having students write a short essay in response to a prompt and consider their score as part of the application package.

In our admission process, we consider a student's GPA and examine his/her performance in the pre-requisites courses and other classes taken; the score on the essay provides additional information. As mentioned above and emphasized again, students whose GPA would have jeopardized their admission can now increase their chances of getting into the economics major by writing a good essay. Likewise, a student with a strong GPA along with strong quantitative skills has a good chance of being admitted in spite of a relatively weak performance in the writing essay; however, if this student is planning to pursue studies that includes research in economics, we would expect this student to hone his/her writing skills.

Students with a low GPA and inadequate performance in the writing essay will not be admitted to the major.

The RTW and personal statement serve different purposes. The RTW examines your reading comprehension, critical thinking, and writing abilities. The personal statement is the forum to discuss your interest in the major and any outside issues. Please refer to the personal statement prompt on the application form.