



BOWDOIN COLLEGE
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship
Application Essay Questions

The following essay prompts will be requested in the 2022 Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF) online application.

1. Personal Statement

In 400 to 500 words, describe academic and life experiences and encounters that have helped to shape your development. The following questions may help you develop your thoughts:

- Why do I want to participate in MMUF?
- What courses have been most influential in shaping my interests and motivating me?
- Why did I choose my major? What issues, questions and themes stimulate and sustain my intellectual curiosity?
- Why would I like to enter a PhD program in my field and pursue a career as a college/university professor?

2. Essay on Commitment to Diversity

In 200 to 300 words, explain how your personal goals and commitment to diversity reflect the legacy of Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, for whom the Mellon Mays program is named. A biography of Dr. Mays can be viewed at <https://www.mmuf.org/about/dr-benjamin-e-mays>.

3. Research Proposal

In 500 to 600 words, propose a research theme that will guide your work as a Mellon Mays Fellow. Include a preliminary bibliography.

- What are the initial factors that prompted your interest in the research you are proposing to conduct during the summer after your sophomore year? What are your goals and objectives? Include a highlight of any coursework or independent study relating to the research question.
- How will your mentor help you meet your objectives? What do you hope to gain from this mentoring relationship?

4. Academic Plan of Study through Senior Year

Please offer a preliminary outline of the courses (including independent studies and honors work) that will support your fulfillment of MMUF goals and prepare you for graduate work in your field.

As you develop your plan, please note that MMUF Fellows are discouraged from studying abroad during the junior fall semester or for an entire academic year.

5. Personal Information (*optional*)

In a few words, please offer any additional reflections or information about yourself or your family that you would like to share with the selection committee.