

# 2026 FSU Young Scholars Program Application

Thank you for your interest in applying! Please follow the directions carefully to complete your application and request the required recommendation letters.

## **General Program Information:**

The FSU Young Scholars Program (YSP) is a six-week residential science and mathematics summer program for Florida high school students with significant potential for careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Eligibility details and dates are provided below, but for more information about the program, please consult our website: <https://yosp.osta.fsu.edu/>

## **Eligibility:**

The program is designed for students who have completed the eleventh grade in a Florida public or private high school. A few exceptionally qualified and mature tenth graders have been selected in past years, though this is quite rare. FSU is able to provide room, board, and tuition for every admitted student.

To be considered for acceptance, applicants must:

- Maintain at least a 3.0 GPA (unweighted)
- Have received a score in the 90th percentile or better in math on a nationally standardized exam (i.e., SAT, PSAT, ACT, or PreACT) before the application deadline
- Be enrolled in or have completed Pre-Calculus
- Be able to commit for the entire six weeks of the program (no exceptions will be made for travel to other summer internship opportunities, other camps, Mu Alpha Theta, etc.)
- Maintain a permanent residence in the state of Florida

## **Application Components:**

Please make sure you are prepared to complete this application. You will be asked to fill in information including but not limited to:

- Your biographical/demographic/contact information
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) names/occupation/contact information
- Recommender names/titles/affiliations/email (for **2-4 total recommenders**, including at least one of your past or present high school math or science teachers)
- Three mini personal statements (each in 300 words or less)

- All of your high school, community college, and/or college transcripts, any AP scores, and any standardized test scores (i.e., SAT, PSAT, ACT, PreACT), to **self-report** your academic history
- Guidance counselor name and contact information (should you be accepted into the program, this is the person who will need to provide your transcript and/or confirm your self-reported transcript information)
- Optional: School activities, community activities, previous Science Fair and/or university research experience details
- Your general research and course preferences for YSP

At the end of the application, both you and one of your parents/guardians will be asked to sign to certify the veracity of your application materials.

**Important Deadlines:**

February 15: Application and recommendation deadline

May 15: Admissions decisions finalized

**Program Dates for 2026:**

YSP will run from June 7 - July 18, 2026.

Click the next "->" button to begin the application.

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**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

We will use **the email address you enter below** as our primary means of communication with you, so please enter the best email address for this purpose and **add [ysp@osta.fsu.edu](mailto:ysp@osta.fsu.edu) to your address book** to avoid our messages going to spam.

First Name	<input type="text"/>
Last Name	<input type="text"/>
Email Address	<input type="text"/>
Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)	<input type="text"/>

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**DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

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## Sex

- Male
- Female
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## Race

Check all that apply.

- Caucasian/White
- African American/Black
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Mexican American
- Other Hispanic
- Other (specify)

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## SCHOOL INFORMATION

School Name

School COUNTY (e.g. Broward, Leon, Orange)

School Type (public, private, charter)

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## ELIGIBILITY SCREENING

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### Do you maintain a permanent residence in the state of Florida?

Note: Due to the nature of our funding, we are only able to admit Florida residents. Please contact us at [ysp@osta.fsu.edu](mailto:ysp@osta.fsu.edu) if you have questions about your residency status.

- Yes
- No (ineligible)
-

**In what grade are you currently enrolled?**

Note: The program was designed for rising seniors, i.e., students who are currently in 11th grade. A few exceptionally qualified and mature 10th graders have been selected in past years, though this is quite rare. We do not consider applications from current 9th or 12th graders.

- 9th Grade (ineligible)
  - 10th Grade
  - 11th Grade
  - 12th Grade (ineligible)
- 

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION** (continued)

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What is YOUR primary telephone number? (xxx-xxx-xxxx)

Daytime Telephone  
Number

What is YOUR mailing address?

Street Address

City

Zip

## Financial Need

If you have significant financial need, as defined as being unable to attend the YSP unless additional support is made available to you for travel, you may be eligible for a Travel Stipend. Stipends are need-based and will only be awarded to outstanding students who are selected for participating in the YSP and who are verified by their high schools as having SIGNIFICANT financial need. Your answer to this question will not affect our admission decision and stipend availability is not guaranteed. If you express an interest in a Travel Stipend and are admitted to the program, you will be sent an optional Travel Stipend Application.

- I AM interested in submitting an application for a Travel Stipend
- I am NOT interested in or would not qualify for a Travel Stipend
- 

**Travel Stipend Note:** Thank you, if you are admitted to the Program, you will be sent a Travel Stipend Application and your financial needs will be verified by your high school. If you are not interested, please click "back" and change your answer to the previous question.

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## INFORMATION ON PARENT(S) OR GUARDIAN(S)

You must include information for at least one parent or legal guardian. If you have two parents or guardians, please include information for both.

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Parent/Guardian 1 | **Full Name**

Parent/Guardian 1 | **Occupation/Place of Employment**

Parent/Guardian 1 | **Phone Number** (xxx-xxx-xxxx)

Parent/Guardian 1 | **Email**

Parent/Guardian 2 | **Full Name**

Parent/Guardian 2 | **Occupation/Place of Employment**

Parent/Guardian 2 | **Phone Number** (xxx-xxx-xxxx)

Parent/Guardian 2 | **Email**

## LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

In order for your application to be considered complete, **we must receive at least TWO (2) and no more than FOUR (4) recommendation letters by the application deadline.** At least one of the letters we receive must be from one of your past or present high school math or science teachers. Other potential letter writers might include additional science or math teachers, university research supervisors, club advisors, and/or guidance counselors.

When you submit your application, you will receive an email containing information to forward to your recommenders. If you think you are unlikely to complete and submit your application until close to the deadline, you may provide the necessary information to your recommenders ahead of time.

Your recommenders will need the following identifying information to complete their recommendation through our portal, so that we can match it with your application:

- Applicant First Name:
- Applicant Last Name:
- Applicant Email Address:
- Applicant Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy):

Please provide your recommenders with a direct link to the portal: [https://fsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5vvcaKWk9ynh9D8](https://fsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5vvcaKWk9ynh9D8)

\*\*\*They will need to know the email address that you used in your application

Note: We appreciate knowing who you expect will submit these letters (below), but you may also opt to ask an additional/substitute recommender if one or more of your intended recommenders are not able to complete their recommendations on time. There is no penalty for having only two recommendations in your application packet or for the recommendations coming from individuals other than those you list below.

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I am aware that I must have at least one of my past or present high school math or science teachers submit a recommendation on my behalf through the YSP Recommender Portal, as well as 1-3 additional recommenders, for a total of at least 2 recommendations.

Yes

### Planned Science/Math Teacher Recommender Information

Please enter the information for the math or science teacher who will submit a recommendation on your behalf through the YSP Recommender Portal, including their "title" (e.g., "AP Chemistry Teaching" or "Professor of Biology"), "affiliation" (e.g., "Bobby Newport High School," "Greendale Community College," or "Springfield University"), and "relation to you" (e.g., "Mu Alpha Theta coach," "9th grade honors biology teacher," or "research supervisor").

Recommender Full Name	<input type="text"/>
Recommender Title	<input type="text"/>
Recommender Affiliation	<input type="text"/>
Relation to you	<input type="text"/>
Recommender Email	<input type="text"/>

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### Planned Second Recommender Information

Please enter the information for another individual who has agreed to submit a letter of recommendation on your behalf through the YSP Recommender Portal, including their "title" (e.g., "AP Chemistry Teaching" or "Professor of Biology"), "affiliation" (e.g., "Bobby Newport High School," "Greendale Community College," or "Springfield University"), and "relation to you" (e.g., "Mu Alpha Theta coach," "9th grade honors biology teacher," or "research supervisor").

Recommender Full Name	<input type="text"/>
Recommender Title	<input type="text"/>
Recommender Affiliation	<input type="text"/>
Relation to you	<input type="text"/>
Recommender Email	<input type="text"/>

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**OPTIONAL:** You may request up to two additional individuals (e.g., teachers, research supervisors, club advisors) to submit a recommendation through the YSP Recommender Portal.

I would like to include additional recommenders (max of 2) in my application packet.

Yes

No

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### **Student Essay Instructions**

Please complete the following three essay prompts in approximately 300 words or fewer. Prioritize clarity and precision of expression over length.

Bear in mind that the Young Scholars Program is very competitive, as most applicants have outstanding test scores and grades, are at the top of their class, are involved in numerous extracurricular activities, and are generally exceptional students. Do not include a laundry list of your academic record and extracurricular activities in this essay. Instead, this is the place to write what you think should be known about you that will make you stand out in this competitive applicant pool.

While your final essays must be copied and pasted into the below text boxes, you are encouraged to use word processing technology and/or any other tools to compose the essays. To avoid losing your work if the application times out, please do not compose your essay in the below text box.

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Essay Prompt 1: Please copy and paste the text of your 300 word essay into the below text box.

**How would participating in FSU's Young Scholars Program enrich your education and help you meet your long-term academic and career goals?**

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Essay Prompt 2: Please copy and paste the text of your 300 word essay into the below text box.

**What or how do you feel you would contribute to this year's group of Young Scholars? In short, why should you be chosen?**

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Essay Prompt 3: Please copy and paste the text of your 300 word essay into the below text box.

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

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I affirm that the above essays are my own work. I understand that this essay may be run through plagiarism checking software.

Yes

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#### ACADEMIC INFORMATION (coursework/school/research experience)

We reserve the right to verify all self-reported information you provide in this application, with your school's guidance counselor or otherwise. Any inaccurate, exaggerated, or misrepresented information is considered grounds to automatically reject your application, or subsequently, rescind any offer of admission.

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## School Counselor

Please enter the information for your guidance counselor (this is the person who will need to provide or confirm your transcript, should you be accepted into the program)

Full Name	<input type="text"/>
Title	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>
Phone	<input type="text"/>

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I am aware that *should I be accepted into YSP*, the guidance counselor above will need to verify the information in this application and that it will be my responsibility to get this counselor to send in my official transcripts.

Yes

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## Grade Point Average

Please provide your unweighted GPA, weighted is optional. Only leave "Unweighted" blank if you truly do not have a GPA, as will be confirmed by your guidance counselor.

For example, if you have an unweighted GPA of 3.5 out of 4.0 and a weighted GPA of 4.75 out of 5.00, you would write:

Unweighted (out of 4.0): 3.5

Weighted (score): 4.75

Weighted (points possible): 5.00

Unweighted (out of 4.0)	<input type="text"/>
Weighted (score)	<input type="text"/>
Weighted (points possible)	<input type="text"/>

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## Class Rank

If available, please provide your class rank. Only leave blank if you truly do not have a class rank, as will be confirmed by your guidance counselor.

For example, if you are second in a class of 463 students, you would write:

Rank: 2

Class Size: 463

Rank

Class Size

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## Have you previously taken and/or are you currently taking any AP Courses?

- Yes
- No
- No because my school doesn't offer any

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## Have you previously taken and/or are you currently taking any IB Classes?

- Yes
- No
- No because my school doesn't offer any

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## Have you previously taken and/or are you currently taking any AICE courses?

- Yes
  - No
  - No because my school doesn't offer any
-

**Have you previously taken and/or are you currently taking any College/University/Dual-Enrollment courses?**

- Yes
- No

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Additional room for listing any courses or qualification to above courses. If listing additional courses, include Course Name, Semester/Year, and Exam Score or Grade.

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**Have you participated in any regional, state, or international science fairs?**

- Yes
- No

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**Have you completed any academic research projects under the supervision of a university-level research sponsor?**

- Yes
- No

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**Have you participated in any other academic summer programs or internships?**

- Yes
- No

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List any **Other Summer Programs** to which you are applying **this year**, along with the dates.

## ACADEMIC INFORMATION (standardized test scores)

We reserve the right to verify all self-reported information you provide in this application, with your school's guidance counselor or otherwise. Any inaccurate, exaggerated, or misrepresented information is considered grounds to automatically reject your application, or subsequently, rescind any offer of admission.

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Do you have standardized test scores that you would like to enter?

Yes

No

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If you would like to provide an explanation as to why you do not have any standardized test score you would like to provide, you may do so here.

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I am aware that my acceptance into the program may be contingent upon confirmation of these statements.

Yes

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## NATIONAL COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TESTS:

List the scores you earned on *at least one* and *up to three* national college admissions tests (SAT, PSAT, ACT, or PreACT) and provide official or unofficial score reports to your guidance counselor for verification as needed. For percentiles, *list your national percentile scores*.

If you have taken multiple tests or the same test on multiple dates, report your scores from the test/date on which you obtained your *highest math percentile score* first.

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**Test #1** (highest math)

On which standardized test did you receive the highest percentile score in the math section?

- SAT
  - PSAT
  - ACT
  - PreACT
- 

**Would you like to report scores from another national college admissions test or another test date for the same standardized test?**

- Yes
  - No
- 

**Test #2** (second highest math)

On which standardized test did you receive the second highest percentile score in the math section?

- SAT
  - PSAT
  - ACT
  - PreACT
- 

**Would you like to report scores from another national college admissions test or another test date for the same standardized test?**

- Yes
  - No
-

**Test #3** (third highest math)

On which standardized test did you receive the third highest percentile score in the math section?

- SAT
  - PSAT
  - ACT
  - PreACT
- 

**SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

List all clubs, sports, and other activities in A BULLETED LIST in the spaces provided below. Include grade levels, leadership positions, and hours volunteering in parentheses after each activity listed, e.g., “Latin Club [9, 10, 11-Treas-5].” Leave fields blank if you have nothing you would like to report.

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**School Clubs and Activities (bulleted list)**

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**Community/Volunteer Activities (bulleted list)**

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**Work/Paid Activities (bulleted list)**

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**Number of Community Service/ Volunteer Hours**

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## Other Activities

Feel free to list anything else that did not fit above, such as awards, travel, hobbies, talents, interests, etc.

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## **YOUNG SCHOLARS PROGRAM ACADEMIC PREFERENCES**

To ensure we select a well-balanced class of YSP students, we need some information from you about your background and interests. These choices are not binding and we cannot guarantee research area or academic course placement.

### **Individual Research Project**

Participants are sponsored by FSU faculty members and spend time each week working on an Independent Research Project (IRP) under the supervision of their faculty sponsor, postdoctoral associate(s), laboratory staff, and/or graduate student(s). Participants do not propose their own research topics, but rather work on some aspect of the research in which the sponsoring lab is currently involved.

We will send a list of currently available research sponsors along with project descriptions to confirmed participants before the program begins, but it helps to have a general idea of student interests.

### **Academic Courses**

Participants each attend a mathematics, science, and computer programming course. The courses are designed specifically for this program—they are neither high school nor college courses.

We will send a list of specific course offerings to confirmed participants before the program begins, to solicit updated preferences before final placements are made, but it helps to have a general idea of student interests.

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**What type of research project do you prefer?**

- Programming-Based
  - Laboratory- or Field-Based
  - Either type is fine
- 

**What type of science course would you prefer?**

- Physical Science (e.g., Modern Physics)
  - Life Science (e.g. Modern Molecular Biology)
  - Either is fine
- 

**What mathematics courses will you have completed before the start of the program?**

Check all that apply.

- Pre-Calculus
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- Other equivalent course (please list)

- None of the Above
- 

**Have you taken or do you plan to take AP Computer Science?**

- Yes
  - No
  - No because my school does not offer it
-

## Programming Language Fluency

Use the slide bars to indicate your fluency with the following programming languages.

None 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Expert 10

C++



Fortran



Java



Python



## Programming Language Comments

List any other programming languages and/or provide further explanation as needed.

## Data Processing and Visualization Fluency

Use the slide bars to indicate your fluency with the following data processing and visualization tools.

None 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Expert 10

Mathematica



Matlab



R



## Data Processing and Visualization Comments

List any other data processing and visualization tools and/or provide further explanation as needed.

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## OPTIONAL SURVEY

This section is intended to help us make decisions regarding the future marketing of the program. This is not an official component of the application and will not impact our admissions decisions.

We would also like to learn more about whether anyone from your family or school has been an FSU Young Scholar in the past, or if you have any siblings applying to the program this year. Please fill out the appropriate boxes below.

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### How did you hear about the program?

Check all that apply.

FSU YSP Program Website

Social Media

Guidance Counselor

Family Member

Science Teacher

Flyer

Math Teacher

SciTeens

Previous YSP Camper

Other

Previous YSP Counselor

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**Do you know of anyone in your family who attended the FSU Young Scholars Program?**

If so, list their name(s), relationship(s) to you, and approximate year(s) of attendance, e.g., "Jane Doe [sister, 2017], John Doe [father, 1990s]."

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**Do you have any siblings who are also applying this year?**

If so, list their name(s) and grade(s), e.g., "John Smith [10th grade]."

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**Do you know anyone from your school who has attended the FSU Young Scholars Program?**

If so, list their name(s) and year(s) of attendance (if you know the year), e.g., "Mary Dean [2019], Josh Jones [unsure]."

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**Will you be a first generation college student?**

- I WILL be a first generation college student (read: my family did not attend college)
- I will NOT be a first generation college student (read: my family did attend college)
- It's complicated....

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**CERTIFICATION OF VERACITY OF APPLICATION**

We require that both you and one of your parents/guardians sign below to certify the veracity of the statements and information in your application and your awareness of the authorization you are giving the Young Scholars Program by submitting an application.

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My application is complete and finalized. I am aware that once the application is submitted, there will be no way to make updates. I further understand that YSP will only accept test scores as part of my original application and will not update my application if/when I receive new score reports.

Yes

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*By signing below, I hereby certify that the statements and information included in **my application** are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I authorize Florida State University and the co-directors of the Young Scholars Program to investigate all statements or other information contained in this application and any attachments submitted with it. I understand and agree that any misrepresentation, falsification, or material omission of information on this application may result in my failure to receive an offer, or, if I am accepted, a revocation of that offer. While every effort will be made to keep personal data private, I authorize the Young Scholars Program to enter and use data from this application for the purpose of aggregating program statistics and demographics.*

×

# SIGN HERE

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clear

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Printed Applicant Name

*By signing below, I hereby certify that the statements and information included in **my child's application** are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I authorize Florida State University and the co-directors of the Young Scholars Program to investigate all statements or other information contained in this application and any attachments submitted with it. I understand and agree that any misrepresentation, falsification, or material omission of information on this application may result in my failure of my child to receive an offer, or, if accepted, a revocation of that offer. While every effort will be made to keep personal data private, I authorize the Young Scholars Program to enter and use data from this application for the purpose of aggregating program statistics and demographics.*

×

# SIGN HERE

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clear

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Printed Parent/Guardian Name

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This application is completely online. Submitting this application will trigger the following emails:

A confirmation will be sent to you, containing a summary of your responses.

An email will be send to each of your recommenders you entered. Please make sure that all emails entered are accurate.

Be sure that you remind your recommenders to send in their evaluations.

Note that we require at least 2 recommendations by the application deadline.

Applications without recommendations will not be reviewed.

You are almost finished! You have the opportunity to review your answers below before submitting and to save a PDF for your records. We encourage you to download this PDF and keep it somewhere safe before clicking the next "->" button to submit. If you would like to edit any of your answers, click the back "

To submit your application, please retype the email address associated with your application then click the arrow at the bottom of the survey

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Email

