

School Submissions: University of Toronto:

Let's take a look at the University of Toronto's application.

In Toronto's personal statement you have 5000 characters to bring anything you like to the attention of the admissions committee. You may include any information that you believe will help the committee assess your likelihood of success at the Faculty of Law, or predict what your contributions to the class will be. Applicants may wish to outline in the personal statement such things as their choice of undergraduate program and institution; the extent to which it has prepared them for the study of law; and if appropriate, any anomalies in the academic record including false starts, fewer than five courses over two terms, and introductory courses taken in the third or fourth years of a program. It is important to show careful thought of who you are, and to avoid regurgitating your sketch. It is not necessary to overemphasize your exposure to law (like your legal studies major); instead focus on your story and how your resilience has led to your successes.

The question lists examples of issues to discuss, but you do not need to address all or any of them:

- a) Issues you have faced/are facing (possibly a disability, discrimination, sexual identity, or economic disadvantage) that have had an impact on your academic achievement
- b) Specific academic or extra-curricular interests that may shape your legal career
- c) Description of your community leadership and involvement
- d) Description of your academic leadership and involvement
- e) Description of your advanced academic work
- f) Your atypical background or educational history or
- g) Describe something about which you feel passionately.

There is also an optional additional essay. You can choose from one of 3 questions to answer in 2500 characters.

This essay will allow you to provide the Admissions Committee with information you were not able to include in the other parts of this application. Admissions recommends that you only answer an optional question if you feel that it adds value to your application.

Optional Essay 1 states:

Describe a meaningful intellectual experience you have had. This could be a dynamic class you took in high school or undergraduate school, your favourite mathematical concept, or a learning relationship you developed with someone outside an academic context. Consider circumstances under which you have developed a talent or skill that has transformed the way you approach problems . **You could mention co-op here.**

Optional Essay 2 states:

What do you hope to achieve with your JD? If you have a clear vision of your future goals, describe it, and explain to the Admissions Committee how you believe the Faculty of Law at the University of Toronto will help you reach your goals.

Optional Essay 3 states:

Elaborate on any obstacles to achievement (physical, social, cultural, geographic, economic) that you believe the Admissions Committee should consider in assessing your application.

Mature category applicants also need to submit a resume.