

NUNM Scholarship Essay Rubric

Criteria	Strong	Pts	Developing	Pts	Inadequate	Pts	Score
Conventions & Mechanics, Followed Instructions	Examples: Accurate use of punctuation, grammar, and spelling. Excellent writing and communication skills. Followed all instructions for application and essay, including correct formatting and specified word count. The essay header includes the title, word count AND essay question in correct font type and spacing.	10	Examples: A few errors in punctuation, grammar, or spelling, but not to the point of interfering with understanding. Minor deviations from instructions (didn't follow 1-2 instructions such as not in Word format; not in Times 12 point font, not double spaced, doesn't include title of essay or word count at the top, or word count is slightly higher or lower than specification).	5	Examples: Significant errors in punctuation, grammar, and spelling that interfere with understanding. Significant deviations from the application and essay instructions (i.e., more than 2 deviations from instructions as listed previously; word count is much greater than or lower than specification).	2	
Focus, clarity, originality of essay content and development of prompt (did they answer all of the questions?)	Addressed the essay prompts completely. Evidence of critical, careful thought and insight. Writing is connected to selected prompt. Central focus or themes are consistent and clear. All points are clearly expressed. Topic is developed to respond to the prompt fully and effectively.	20	Attempts to address prompt but does not include information in a thorough, comprehensive, or reflective manner. Ideas may be vague or too broad. Focus is unclear. A few points are unclearly expressed. Develops ideas minimally; at times, the details included are not strong or relevant. Shows little reflection on prompt.	10	Little evidence of thought and insight. Essay prompts not adequately addressed or reflected upon. Uses cliches and generic statements. Poses questions or provides dictionary definitions. Ideas not developed. Does not include details.	5	
Dedication/commitment and/or leadership in the area of the essay prompt.	Uses significant and relevant details, which may include examples from lived experience, to describe their commitment. Examples in the essay clearly show the individual's character, direction, thoughts, and leadership.	20	Less obvious dedication or commitment to the essay prompt. Minimal detail or lived experience is discussed to support their ideas or plans. Few examples show the individual's character, direction, thoughts, and leadership.	10	There are few to no examples to support a commitment to their plan of action. Their ideas are unsupported by detail or lived experience. No examples of the individual's character, direction, thoughts, and leadership.	5	

TOTAL : _____/50