



The Common Application Caltech Member Questions

Once you add Caltech to your list of colleges on the Common Application, you'll see a set of member questions and a writing supplement specific to Caltech. These questions help us to evaluate your passion for science, technology, engineering and math. We want to know what excites you, what you value, and which of Caltech's resources appeal most to you.

Important Caltech Member Questions:

Fee Waiver:

You will be asked to indicate whether or not you qualify for a Caltech-specific fee waiver (Caltech/Questbridge Finalists; Caltech Up Close Participants; Expanding College Opportunities; Financial Hardship Fee Waiver). If you are NOT a part of the fee waiver programs listed, please check "none." These waivers are separate from the general Common Application fee waiver request.

Academics:

Although not binding, please indicate your proposed area of study at Caltech.

Please indicate your second area of study at Caltech.

Have you taken math exams, such as the AMC 12 or AIME? If so, please list your scores and their corresponding dates.

*Please note that we do not admit you into a certain academic division. We're just curious to learn more about your STEM interests.

Essay Prompts/Short Answers

Please list three books, along with their authors, that have been particularly meaningful to you. For each book, please include a sentence explaining their influence upon you. Please note that your response is not limited to math, science or school-assigned texts.

What three experiences or activities have helped you explore your desire to study and possibly pursue a career in STEM? (200 max)

Members of the Caltech community live, learn, and work within an Honor System with one simple guideline; "No member shall take unfair advantage of any other member of the Caltech community." While seemingly simple, questions of ethics, honesty and integrity are sometimes puzzling. Share a difficult decision that has challenged you. What was your response, and how did you arrive to a solution? (200 words max)

Caltech students have long been known for their quirky sense of humor and creative pranks. Please describe an unusual way in which you have fun. (200 words max)

In an increasingly global and interdependent society, there is a need for diversity in thought, background, and experience in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. How do you see yourself contributing to the diversity of Caltech's community? (200 words max)

Scientific exploration clearly excites you. Beyond our 3:1 student to faculty ratio and our intense focus on research opportunities, how do you believe Caltech will best fuel your intellectual curiosity and help you meet your goals? (500 words max)

Additional Information (upload feature at the end of the Caltech Writing Supplement)

If you need additional space, please explain using the upload function button below. Please do not attach a resume or upload research papers. Caltech will email you an application confirmation with information on how to upload research papers through your student portal (**500 KB max**)

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