

## PPHI Honors Internship Personal Statement Guidelines

For this component of the application, you are asked to provide concise answers to three prompts (defined below). This personal statement gives you the opportunity to explain your academic aspirations and reflect on your educational journey. It is an important element of the application, as it provides both the Montgomery College Selection Committee and the supervisors at our partner institutions a sense of who you are as a scholar and what you hope to accomplish.

### Personal Statement Prompts

Please provide clear and focused paragraphs in response to EACH of the following three prompts.

1. **Why did you select your major?** (250 words) In answering this question, be sure to identify the kinds of topics and issues that interest you. What sparks your intellectual curiosity? Discuss how your past academic and/or work experience has shaped your selection. How will this major help you achieve your future goals?
2. **What is the most significant research paper, project, or scientific experiment you have produced at MC?** (500 words) In answering this question, be specific about the steps necessary to accomplish your work, what conclusions you drew, and what you found noteworthy. Discuss what you learned about yourself as a student. What skills did you develop? Consider whether there is something you would do differently if you had the chance.
3. **What attracts you to this internship?** (250 words) In answering this question, be sure to indicate that you know something about the institution to which you are applying. Explain how you can help advance its mission and discuss what you find appealing and meaningful about the work you will be doing as an intern. Emphasize the skills you feel you can offer, but also what you hope to gain from the experience. Indicate your flexibility and make clear your understanding that you will be serving as an assistant and not a full-fledged professional.

### Writing Tips

- **Be focused.** Each paragraph should discuss the assigned prompt only. Do not simply string together a series of thoughts. Each paragraph should have a clear topic sentence and conclusion, with substantive sentences linking them.
- **Be concrete.** Avoid vague generalities by offering specific examples.
- **Convey your unique self.** Do not write generic content; express who you are by explaining what you have done and how you think.
- **Edit.** Good grammar, accurate spelling, and compelling word choices matter.
- **DO NOT USE AI.** You need to demonstrate that you are a fully capable human being with the skills necessary to conduct your own research and craft your own writing.