



December 1, 2021

Dear Prospective Applicant:

I am writing to encourage you to apply to serve as the next graduate student member of The Ohio State University's Board of Trustees. The opportunity to serve on our university's chief strategic and fiduciary body has been a life-changing experience for me. It has challenged me to understand the complexities of one of the largest universities in the nation, provided me with inspiring mentors and friends, and vastly expanded my view of governance and higher education. Being a student trustee has profoundly influenced my professional aspirations, and the leadership development I have experienced during my term has been invaluable.

It is my hope that as you read this letter, you are inspired to participate in this incredible service opportunity and recognize the privilege we have as students at a university that offers such a position. The new student trustee, once appointed by the governor of Ohio, will serve from May 2022 to May 2024 as one of two voting student trustees at Ohio State. Below you will find the eligibility requirements, an overview of the role of a student trustee and, finally, the application itself.

### Eligibility Requirements

All graduate students who meet the following requirements are encouraged to apply:

- Be an Ohio resident (and remain an Ohio resident for at least the next two years)
- Attend Ohio State until at least May 2024
- Be and remain in good academic standing (*Note: Pass/Non-Pass grades due to the pandemic will not be viewed negatively during the review process*)
- Not be on disciplinary probation
- If employed by the university, serve only in a student employment or work-study position

### Student Trusteeship

Ohio State's Board of Trustees is the highest level of governance at the university. The board consists of up to 20 members: 15 voting Ohio residents, two voting student trustees (one undergraduate, one graduate/professional) and up to three non-voting charter trustees who are not Ohio residents. Student trustees serve two-year terms, attend and participate in all board meetings and executive sessions, and vote on all proposals and resolutions presented at the committee and full-board levels. This position will require a significant investment in time to prepare for and engage in meetings and discussions, so it is critical that you are able to balance your academic and personal commitments with your responsibilities to the board.

### Deadline and Interviews

The student trustee application deadline is **Friday, January 21, 2022 at 12 p.m. (noon)**. Applications must be submitted electronically to the Student Trustee Selection Committee via [board@osu.edu](mailto:board@osu.edu). If you are selected as a potential candidate, expect to participate in interviews in February with a potential student-trustee mixer in early February. A member of the Office of the Board of Trustees will reach out to you with information on next steps as the process moves forward.

Please feel free to contact me at [Carly.Sobol@osumc.edu](mailto:Carly.Sobol@osumc.edu) with any questions. Good luck!

Sincerely,  
Carly G. Sobol  
Graduate/Professional Student Trustee



**GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL STUDENT TRUSTEE  
APPLICATION FORM**

Name (include middle initial): \_\_\_\_\_

Pronouns: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (cell and/or home): \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Sought: \_\_\_\_\_ Expected Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Ohio Resident: Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_ (Must be an Ohio resident to apply)

Employed by Ohio State: Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_ (If yes, you are only eligible if this position is student employment and/or work-study. Please inquire if you are unsure about your eligibility.)

Current GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I am in good academic standing, according to the regulations and standards of my enrollment unit, and that I am not on any form of academic or disciplinary probation. I waive my privacy rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, and I authorize members of the Student Trustee Selection Committee to verify my GPA, academic rank and standing, and that I am not on academic probation with the University Registrar. If appointed to serve on The Ohio State University Board of Trustees, I will make every reasonable effort to serve for the full duration of my two-year term, and I will conscientiously seek to serve the interests of the taxpayers of the state of Ohio, the university community and other relevant constituencies.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## APPLICATION MATERIALS

The application form and all required materials must be submitted electronically by **12 p.m. (noon) on Friday, January 21, 2022**. Applications will not be accepted if they are late, incomplete or if the personal statement exceeds the maximum page length. The completed application should be e-mailed to the Student Trustee Selection Committee (c/o Board of Trustees Office) at [board@osu.edu](mailto:board@osu.edu).

**Note:** If you have questions or would like to request special accommodations, please contact the Board Office at 614-292-6359 or [board@osu.edu](mailto:board@osu.edu).

Your application must be complete at the time of submission. A complete application includes:

1. The basic application form, signed and completed
2. An up-to-date résumé and/or curriculum vitae
3. Transcripts from all colleges and universities you have attended (*Note: Pass/Non-Pass grades due to the pandemic will not be viewed negatively during the review process*)
4. A current copy of your OSU Advising Report, if available
5. Two letters of recommendation to support your application (*Note: Please ask your recommenders to submit their letters directly to [board@osu.edu](mailto:board@osu.edu)*)
6. A personal statement addressing your interest in the position
7. Answers to a series of short essay questions

### **Letters of Recommendation**

Your application must be supported by two letters of recommendation, submitted electronically by your recommenders directly to the Board Office at [board@osu.edu](mailto:board@osu.edu). At least one of the letters must be written by an individual who is affiliated with The Ohio State University (e.g., current or former faculty or staff member). Please ask your recommenders to include your FULL NAME in the subject line of their email. This is crucial, as this is how the Board Office will match your letters to your application materials. The Board Office must receive your letters electronically no later than 12 p.m. (noon) on Friday, January 21, 2022, in order for your application to be considered complete and eligible for consideration.

### **Personal Statement**

Your personal statement should be no longer than three pages, double-spaced, with one-inch margins and using Times New Roman 12 pt font in Microsoft Word. Topics to cover in your statement:

- a) Any work, service and leadership experiences you believe are relevant to your candidacy
- b) A discussion of your thoughts on trusteeship
- c) Your definition of leadership and how you as a trustee would fulfill this definition

### **Short Essay Questions**

Please provide answers to the questions below. Your responses should be 250 words or less per question, double-spaced, with one-inch margins and using Times New Roman 12 pt font in Microsoft Word.

- a) What do you think is the most important skill or quality required to successfully fulfill the responsibilities of a student trustee? Please elaborate on how you demonstrate this skill/quality.
- b) What experience at Ohio State has had the most profound impact on you? Please describe.
- c) Briefly discuss what you believe are the major issues facing Ohio State and the Board of Trustees.
- d) Briefly discuss your current major time commitments and how those would continue during your time as a trustee. Additionally, please describe your expectations of the time commitment for this role.
- e) *Optional question:* The pandemic has affected everyone in various ways. If you have any unique extenuating circumstances related to impacts from the pandemic that you would like the committee to be aware of while reviewing your application, please take this opportunity to share those details.