



DOMINICAN
VOLUNTEERS
USA

Application Questions

This application has a total of seven sections. Before you begin please read all of the instructions carefully. Should any questions arise, please contact the DVUSA office at 312-226-0919.

APPLICATION and ESSAYS: Please spend time reflecting on the questions before answering. Please be truthful in all of your responses.

RÉSUMÉ: You will be asked to attach your résumé. Be sure to include your education, volunteer and work history, as well as hobbies, languages spoken, and any other relevant skills and experiences. PDF format is preferred, though .doc and .docx are also acceptable.

REFERENCES: Please ask three people who know you well enough to assess your character and skills as they relate to the mission of DVUSA to serve as references. Supervisors, professors, university staff, clergy members, etc. can be included as references. Do NOT include family members or personal friends. Applications will not be processed without references. All reference submissions must be completed online. Please direct your three people to www.dvusa.org where the appropriate submission link can be found.

TRANSCRIPTS: Please send us official transcripts for colleges or post-secondary schools you have attended. Transcripts should be sent from the institution to: Dominican Volunteers USA, 1914 S Ashland Avenue, Chicago, IL 60608.

PERSONAL INTERVIEW: After your application, résumé, references, and transcript(s) have been received, a personal interview may be scheduled with a staff member. Interviews will be conducted in person when possible; otherwise a Skype, iChat, or Gmail video chat session will be scheduled. If none are possible, a telephone interview will be conducted.

DEADLINE: We recommend early application to ensure the best placement options. Application materials will be accepted starting October 1st with a priority deadline of December 31st. Interviews will be scheduled on a rolling basis after January 1st. Applications may be submitted for consideration through March 31st. Applications may be submitted after this deadline; however, if you apply later you will have limited placement options, so call the office to inquire about availability.

PLEASE NOTE: Your application will be shared in its *entirety* (including essays) with potential communities and placement sites. We will disclose any personal information on a “need to know basis.” Failure to disclose all pertinent information, including health issues, can be cause for immediate dismissal from DVUSA.

All accepted applicants are subject to a criminal background check.



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Section #1: Contact information

Full legal name:

Name you prefer to be called by:

Current mailing address:

Permanent address (if different from present address):

Preferred phone number:

Secondary phone number (if applicable):

Preferred e-mail address:

Permanent e-mail address (if applicable):

College(s) or University(ies) attending/attended:

Major(s):

Graduation Date:

Are you age 21 or older?

Are you a United States citizen?

Social Security Number:

Date of Birth:

Emergency contact name:

Emergency contact phone number:

Emergency contact address:

Ethnicity (Optional – Information not a factor in acceptance):

Gender (Optional – Information not a factor in acceptance):

Religious Affiliation (Optional – Information not a factor in acceptance):

Upload your resume.



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Section #2: References

Please list the three persons whom you've asked to be a reference for you. (See instructions.) Include their name, phone number, e-mail address, relationship to you, and job title.

Reference #1:

Reference #2:

Reference #3:



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Section #3: Character Portrait

These questions will be used to match you with communities and ministries. Please be honest - there are no wrong answers!

My personality can be best described as: Outgoing Reserved

My thought process is: Vivid imagination Excellent observation

What interests you more? How people feel How people think

Which best describes your personality in handling projects:

You prefer structure, you'll organize time and efforts to meet goals and deadlines.

You work best in a freeform environment and tend to work in bursts of energy.

After social activities I am usually: Energized Tired

Do you live more for Tomorrow Today

Which describes you better?

Sensitive and understanding Impartial and questioning

The possibility of an unexpected situation makes me feel
nervous; I would rather plan for every possibility.
excited; I love living in the moment.

Are you the type of person who talks first listens first

If someone asks you what time it is what are you more inclined to say

It's almost four o'clock It's three fifty two

What is easier for you to remember:

Faces and names Numbers and figures

I prefer to do my work before I play as I play



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Section #4: Essays *Please answer all the essay questions below. Your answers should be a minimum of one paragraph and maximum of one page.*

Mission Statement: *Dominican Volunteers USA searches for new frontiers for the faith by inviting men and women to walk with us in mission as volunteers. Together, we respond to the needs of our sisters and brothers, especially those who are poor and marginalized. We live out the Dominican mission of proclaiming the gospel through our ministry, common life, prayer, and study within a diverse, intergenerational community.*

- 1) Why are you applying to Dominican Volunteers USA? What in your life experience has drawn you to the mission of DVUSA (above)? Please mention specific examples as much as possible.
- 2) What injustice or inequality most concerns you in our society, either from your study or own experience? What do you believe to be the cause of this? What can you and others do to be a part of changing it?
- 3) Many DVUSA placement sites are in service to the economically poor and marginalized. What opportunities and challenges do you foresee from ministry work among vulnerable populations?
- 4) What is your experience of living in community? How do you think living in an intentional community will be similar and different?
- 5) What about your personality has helped you navigate relationships in your life with family, friends, classmates, co-workers, etc.? What about your personality have you found challenging in navigating these same relationships? Examples are encouraged.
- 6) What kinds of situations in your life have you found very stressful? What actions or support systems did you use to deal with stress? Give a concrete example.
- 7) Dominican Volunteers USA strives to be a program that welcomes applicants of different backgrounds, including faith. As a faith-based program in the Catholic tradition, volunteers are invited into the homes of vowed religious Dominican sisters or friars who share regular prayer and reflection. What are your expectations of coming to a faith-based program? Why have you chosen a Catholic, Christian program? What role do you expect spirituality to play in your community?
- 8) As a stipend volunteer living with a very modest budget and pooled resources, what changes or sacrifices do you anticipate having to make from your current lifestyle? Alternatively, how do you hope to grow from living simply?



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Section #5: Placement Interests

Please check all geographic regions you are willing to be placed in:

Northeast South Midwest West coast

Do you have a preference as to where in the U.S. you would like to serve? If so, where?

Please rank your top three ministry options. (Please note ministry options vary year to year, but sample lists are available at www.dvusa.org.)

First ministry choice/ interest:

Second ministry choice/interest:

Third ministry choice/interest:

Ministry options to choose from: Health care/ Nursing, Social work, Elementary education, Secondary education, Adult education, Literacy education, Child care, Refugee/ Immigrant services, Parish or Campus ministry, Elderly outreach, Peace and justice advocacy, Women and children programs, Environmental services, Community organizing, Homeless ministry, Social service, Other

If you chose "other", please describe:

Do you have any professional certifications/licenses, including nursing, education, or social work?

Are you more interested in direct or indirect service? Direct service might include teaching/tutoring, community outreach, case management, nursing/patient care, etc. Indirect service might include systemic change positions, volunteer coordination, IT/development work, or program administration.

Most volunteer communities are comprised 2-4 volunteers living with vowed religious; however, certain positions like college campus ministry may be placed without other volunteers.

The number of vowed religious in the community could vary from one to twelve, though most have 2-3. Please indicate your preferences (You may check more than one box).

Volunteers in community:

1+ 2+ 3+ No preference

Vowed religious in community:

1-3 4-6 7 or more No preference

What is most important to you: geographic location, ministry type, or community composition?



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Section #6: Additional Information

Do you speak any other languages in addition to English?

Some placement sites with less public transportation infrastructure require a vehicle. With compensation for gas/insurance/tolls (approximately \$200/month before taxes), would you be able and willing to bring your own vehicle? Note: You would be solely responsible for maintenance, repairs, and ownership costs (e.g., car payments, if applicable).

If yes, what is the year, make/model, and approximate mileage of the vehicle?

Will you require more than a reasonable accommodation in order to perform service?

If yes, please describe.

Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony? (Failure to provide an accurate answer to this question is grounds for disqualification through AmeriCorps.)

If yes, please describe:

Are you in recovery from an addiction, including but not limited to alcohol, drugs, gambling, or pornography?

If yes, please describe and state length of recovery (Note: DVUSA requires at least one year of active recovery from addiction for placement in residential community).

Please describe any personal circumstances (financial obligations, sick/dependent family, parental concerns, graduate school, weddings, relationships, etc.), which might interfere with your commitment to DVUSA (If none, write "N/A"):

The DVUSA Orientation will be held August 7th to 13th, 2014 in Sinsinawa, Wisconsin and attendance for the entire orientation is required (travel to/from retreat is provided). Volunteers will be transported to their site by August 15th, and full-time ministry will begin on August 18th. If accepted, would you be able to commit to being present and beginning these dates?

If no, please describe your conflicts.

How did you hear about Dominican Volunteers USA?



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Are you pursuing other opportunities, including jobs, graduate school, or other volunteer programs? Please list:

Is there any other information not requested in this application that you would like us to know?

Section #7: Conclusion

I attest that all information contained in this application is true to the best of my knowledge. I acknowledge that my application will be shared in its entirety, including essays, with potential communities and placement sites. Failure to disclose all pertinent information, including health concerns, may be cause for immediate dismissal from DVUSA.

Signature (if emailing, type name):

Date:

Don't forget to have your three references submit their recommendations online. Also, be sure to send us your post-secondary transcripts and résumé. We cannot interview you until your application is complete! We'll contact you as soon as possible to discuss your application. Please do not hesitate to call if you have questions regarding placements or the status of your application.

Thank you for applying to Dominican Volunteers USA!