

BlueSky Tennessee Institute Program Essay Questions

1. Why do you want to pursue an accelerated degree in computing through the BlueSky Institute? (Please keep in mind the personal qualities and skills mentioned below.) *(1 - 2 paragraphs)*
2. Tell us about a time you overcame a challenge – how did you identify and address the issue/situation? What was the outcome and what did you learn from the experience? (Please keep in mind the personal qualities and skills mentioned below.) *(1 - 2 paragraphs)*
3. Why should we choose you? (Please keep in mind the personal qualities and skills mentioned below.) *(1 - 2 paragraphs)*

As you answer these essay questions, keep in mind the qualities and skills that the BlueSky Institute is looking for in an applicant:

- **Professional maturity:** Because this is an accelerated work-based learning program that can end with a job offer, students must demonstrate advanced maturity for someone their age.
- **Ability to self-assess and seek support:** Students must be self-reflective and have strong instincts on when they need to seek support. Though we will have indicators to assess how a student is doing in the program, we will not always have a lens into how a student is feeling; students need to illustrate that they can/will seek help when needed.
- **Enthusiasm for the field:** We are asking students to make a career decision relatively early in their lives; as such, they need to demonstrate significant enthusiasm for the field.
- **Interpersonal skills/relationship building:** Because the BlueSky Institute program will follow a cohort model where teamwork will be valued/necessary, we need students to demonstrate an ability to build and maintain strong relationships.
- **Demonstrated interest in and ability to lead:** We want a BlueSky Institute student to, one day, contribute to and lead projects and programs as needed. As such, students must have an interest in leading others.
- **Persistence through adversity:** Students will be asked to complete 4 years of coursework in 24-27 months; we anticipate this to be incredibly challenging and, as such, students must have a record of persistence through adversity (pushing through/ successfully navigating challenges to reach goals).