

EMORY



Dear Admission Candidate:

Is there anything more daunting than a blank college application? Why is the college search, application, and selection process so complicated and, yes, difficult? Sure, there are many, many colleges in the United States; most of us have scores of academic programs; and we have made a chaotic mess of your mailbox, sending you streamers, bulletins, and glossy publications on a daily basis. But sorting through our brochures is easy in comparison to the difficult task at hand: looking at yourself and discovering who you are and where you want to go in this world. Ideally, your completed application will not only convey concrete answers but also the extent of your introspection.

We will likely receive more than 12,000 applications this year; why should we choose to admit you? You have more than 3,000 accredited colleges and universities from which to choose; why have you chosen to apply to Emory? These are two of the many questions my colleagues and I will ask repeatedly while reviewing your file. We are looking for future biochemists who will markedly alter cancer research, novelists who will produce groundbreaking works, diplomats who will address global inequalities, and musicians who will bridge gaps between the natural sciences and humanities; we are looking for 1,250 pioneers—people who will change Emory and the world. Moreover, we are looking for people excited about Emory and eager to become a part of this dynamic community. We carefully note demonstrated interest during the admission process and expect candidates to have done their homework on us: Have you met us at a college fair, ordered the Emory video visit, attended an information session, or perhaps visited campus? Most importantly, have you clearly and specifically articulated in this application why Emory is a good match for you?

We will never get to know you as well as we would like—despite the grades, despite the tests, despite the essays, despite all of the paper and electronic blips that this application will entail. Hopefully, though, we will catch a genuine glimpse of you. Hopefully, your words, thoughts, and interests will transform two-dimensional paper into a textured, three-dimensional portrait of yourself. Be honest; be yourself; and enjoy this time to reflect.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel C. Walls". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daniel C. Walls
Dean of Admission

www.emory.edu/ADMISSIONS