**Texas Orange Jackets • 2020 New Membership Application**

***Letter from the Vice President of Membership***

Dear Applicant,

We are so excited that you are interested in becoming a member of Texas Orange Jackets at The University of Texas at Austin! Texas Orange Jackets was founded in 1923 as a women’s honorary service organization and remains one of the oldest student organizations on campus today. As official hostesses of the university, Orange Jackets can often be spotted volunteering across campus in our burnt orange vests. You may see us helping out at official university events, on the field during football games, and serving the community. Off campus, we serve and work in various causes as individuals and as an organization. The honor of serving the university and beyond is rooted in our commitment to the community and to our three tenets: service, leadership, and scholarship.

Our members come from a wide variety of organizations, majors, and backgrounds but are all united by a passion for serving the university and the Austin community. Previous OJ service initiatives include the annual Week of Women, the Barbara Jordan Statue Project, PrOJect Safety, Pennies Make Sense: A Financial Literacy Program, Food SecureUT, *We Rose* booklets featuring the journeys of six remarkable Longhorn women, Project Period, Tap In To Women’s Health, and most recently, For Texas, an ongoing initiative to raise awareness of UT’s racial and gendered history, as well as the progress that has been made and the progress that is still to come. We wanted to show our dedication to making UT more welcoming for those with underrepresented identities by creating the Texas Orange Jackets: For Texas You Will Women’s Empowerment Scholarship, which will help make UT more financially accessible for one incoming freshman self-identified woman each school year. Additionally, our primary partner philanthropy is The Settlement Home for Children, a home for girls who have experienced abuse and neglect. We visit bimonthly to make crafts, lead fun exercises, and encourage girls to pursue higher education.

Each fall, a new Tappee Class is inducted into Texas Orange Jackets (that could be you!). Interested self-identified women and nonbinary individuals with **at least three semesters left at UT** may submit applications, which will be read and scored in a blind process by at least seven Orange Jackets members and our staff advisors. The highest scoring applicants will be interviewed by the President, Vice President of Membership (me – hi!), the Orange Jackets selection committee, and our advisors or alumni. After the interview round, a new Tappee Class will be selected and officially tapped into Orange Jackets.

Before applying, please keep in mind the four foundational tenets and requirements for Orange Jackets:

* ***Service****:* A commitment to campus and community affairs with a desire to help others and contribute to The University of Texas at Austin.
* ***Leadership****:* Demonstration of leadership skills and responsibility.
* ***Scholarship****:*  Applicants must have completed at least two long semesters or have at least 24 hours in residence at The University of Texas prior to Fall 2020.
* *\*Applicants who are planning to study abroad or to not be enrolled in-residence for any other reason during Fall 2020 or Spring 2021 are* ***ineligible*** *to apply this fall.*
* ***Community:*** As the foundational tenet, builds unwavering solidarity alongside all movements committed to change for the common good.

Our [website](http://ojackets.org) and our [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/txorangejackets) are great resources for you to learn about Texas Orange Jackets. You can also join our recruitment Facebook group [“Fall 2020 Orange Jackets Recruitment.”](https://www.facebook.com/groups/325889768817049) This page can be used to ask questions, and interact with other applicants and current active members of OJs!

If you would like to learn more about Texas Orange Jackets or meet current members, we invite you to attend our recruitment events this fall. Please note that all our recruitment events are optional, and attendance is **not** mandatory to be considered for membership and will not be considered in the application process. Recruitment events are purely for you to learn about the organization and get to know our membership to see if OJs would be a good fit for you, so we encourage you to attend as many events as possible. Our schedule of events is included below:

**Fall 2020 Recruitment Schedule: Event details will be posted on** [**Fall 2020 Orange Jackets Recruitment**](https://www.facebook.com/groups/325889768817049)**. *Details are subject to change. All events will be hosted via Zoom.* *Text “@fall20ojs” to 81010 to sign up for reminders and receive the Zoom link for all events!***

* Wednesday, September 2 at 4 - 5pm – **Information Session –** *These information sessions are a way for you to learn more about Orange Jackets and the application process.*
* Thursday, September 3 at 3 - 5pm **- “Office Hours” with Cathy!** – *Come talk to me one-on-one if you have any questions about what it is like to be an Orange Jacket or general questions about the application!*
* Thursday, September 3 at 5 -7pm, **Meet and Greet** **–** *Come meet former and current OJs!*
* Friday, September 4 at 4 - 5pm – **Information Session**
* Tuesday, September 8 at 6 - 7pm – **Open Scholarship Circle** – *Join us for an Orange Jacket staple event, our Scholarship Circles are where we meet together and learn from each other about topics we are passionate or curious about.*
* Thursday, September 10 at 7 – 9pm **– H(app)y Hour –** *This is a great way to work on your application, ask any last-minute questions!*
* Wednesday (September 9), Thursday (September 10) at 3 - 5pm and Friday (September 11) at 1:30 - 3:30pm **–** *Ask an OJ any questions you might have about the application. We are your resource!*
* Friday, September 11: **APPLICATIONS DUE NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM ONLINE.**
* Monday, September 14: OPTIONAL Letter of Recommendation due at 5:00 PM online
* Sunday, September 20: **Interview Notifications**
* Monday, September 21 - Thursday, September 24: **Interviews for selected candidates**
* Monday, September 28 and Tuesday, September 29: **Final Notifications**

The purpose of the Orange Jackets application is to find members that best exemplify our tenets, and we love getting to know each of you throughout this process. Our essay questions may prompt personal reflection and revelation, and we are honored that applicants share such personal stories and thoughts with us. Throughout our membership selection process, our university staff advisors will read applications and be involved in the interview process. University faculty and staff members are mandatory reporters under Title IX of the Higher Education Act, so **please be aware that any information shared with us about violence or abuse must be reported by our staff advisors to the University’s Title IX officer.** Please feel empowered to write about anything you choose in this application; our advisors' obligation to report will have no impact on your application status.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions through [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/cathy.preciado.92/) or [e-mail](mailto:membership.orangejackets@gmail.com). Feel free to ask anything about the recruitment process, the application, or what membership in Orange Jackets entails. Throughout the process, remember that you are your biggest priority, and that this application can only scratch the surface of everything you have to offer! Again, we are all so excited that you are interested in becoming an Orange Jacket, and we wish you the best of luck throughout the application process!

For Texas I Will,

**Cathy Preciado**

Vice President of Membership, Texas Orange Jackets

**APPLICATION GUIDE**

*\*\*Each application is scored by several Orange Jackets active members in a blind reading process. In order to make this process efficient and fair, please read and follow all of the following guidelines.\*\**

**Guidelines for the main sections of the application:**

* **Résumé:** Please include a ONE-PAGE résumé with your application. The résumé MAY NOT have your name, GPA, or any other personal information (address, phone number) that would identify you in the blind application process. ***The résumé*** ***must only have activities from after high school graduation.*** As in the sample résumé, please include the following sections and use the same format (keep the font sizes and section order, and use a maximum of 3 bullet points per activity).
* **Scholarship:** List degree, major(s)/minor(s)/certificate(s), and expected graduation date. Then list in bullet points any additional academic experiences you have had such as study abroad, fellowships, or research.
  + **Again, PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE GPA!**
* **Leadership:** List organization involvement, positions, dates involved, and description of duties.
* **Service:** List service organizations or projects, positions, dates involved, and description of duties.
* **Work Experience:** List internships, part-time positions, dates held, and description of duties (Research can be listed here more extensively).
* **Honors & Awards:** List honors, awards, and scholarships as well as the date awarded.
* **Essays:** There are five essay questions of various lengths, and the number of lines of text you are given will be listed along with the prompt. **Please include the question prompt that you are answering when you turn in your application.** Many of the essay prompts ask several small questions that are trying to get at a bigger answer, which may be open to personal interpretation. The best essays do not simply list answers to each individual question, but instead approach the questions holistically and comprehensively!
* **Short Answer Questions:** There is no right or wrong answer for these questions. These are for us to have an understanding of your personality, so have fun with it! To allow us to have a clearer view of you, feel free to explain the “why” of your answers. **You may allocate space between the questions as you please, so long as the length stays within one page.** Again, please include the question prompt that you are answering when you turn in your application. Most importantly, answer honestly! We want to get to know the real you!
* **Letter of Recommendation:** You may **optionally** include a one-page letter of recommendation from a UT faculty or staff member, UT alumnus, UT student leader (excluding current Orange Jackets), or a non-UT work or volunteer supervisor. If you choose to include a letter, please submit the contact information of your reference [here](https://forms.gle/GM9VSMg1XXVm4GHA7). They will receive an email including a link to a submission form. Please make sure to speak with your reference beforehand to ensure they are expecting the form. **You should submit their information before submitting your application to give ample time for your reference, as their letter deadline is only three days after the application is due (Monday, September 14 at 5:00pm)**. **Choosing not to include a letter of recommendation will not impact your application, *many Orange Jackets in the past chose to NOT submit a letter and still successfully joined our organization*!**

**Some writing tips from our membership:**

* Whenever possible, use concrete examples and stories in your writing! Whether you're talking about your leadership style or your contributions to campus, a real-life example can go a long way.
* Writing about your accomplishments and struggles can be difficult at times. Don’t be afraid to be honest and reflective, so we can see the real you through your words.
* Don't write what you think we want to hear – be yourself. There is no cookie cutter OJ!

**Guidelines for pulling it all together:**

* Please type in 11 point BLACK Calibri font, single-spaced for all essays. This is strict!
* All responses should be typed directly on the pages provided to assure consistency in margins and spacing. DO NOT include additional pages with your application beyond what is requested (such as report covers, cover sheets, or cover letters).
  + To ensure fairness across applications, please do not alter margins/spacing.
* **Neither your name nor UT EID should be listed on the final version of this document at all.** It should only be visible in the Google Form.

***Incomplete applications or applications that fail to follow these directions will not be considered.***

**Guidelines for turning in the application:**

**Please refer to the instructions on the** [**Google form**](https://forms.gle/wkDf63LDczzr8q3t8) **for logistics. As a summary:**

* **SUBMIT THIS DOCUMENT IN PDF FORMAT WITH THE TITLE “LastnameFirstname\_OJ”. Ex. PreciadoCathy\_OJ**
* Two files should be uploaded - this document and a screenshot of your Fall 2020 class schedule.
  + This document should only be 5 pages:
    - 1 page résumé
    - 3 pages of essays
    - 1 page of short answers
    - Delete all other pages, including this. This is for your information only!
* The Google Form will have three pages to fill out:
  + Personal Information Page
  + Application (you will submit this document/file mentioned above here)
  + Membership Requirements, Special Circumstances, & Signature Page
* Do not turn your application in at the last minute just in case you run into technical difficulties when submitting!
* Optional letter of recommendation: submit contact information for your reference on this separate [Google Form](https://forms.gle/7wKRk3mLTTczadZN6). They will be reached out to with an official submission form. Give ample time for this correspondence to occur. Their reference deadline is Monday, Sept 14 at 5:00 pm.

**The** [**Google form**](https://forms.gle/sNao9SkLA6mGvhiB9) **serves as your official submission. Please do not email or print the application!**

All applicants will be notified of interview status by the evening of Sunday, September 20, and interviews for the finalists will take place the following week.



**Good Luck and Hook ‘Em!**

***Note: Please DO NOT submit any of the pages before the Resume (1-6). These pages (including this one) are strictly for informational purposes.***

**MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST**

Texas Orange Jackets are dedicated to serving both on campus and in our community. As such, both Actives and Tappees must fulfill certain requirements in order to retain the honor of wearing the vest as active members of Orange Jackets. The following requirements are for your reference, and you must acknowledge them on the Google Form before submitting your application.

**All dates, events, and requirements listed below are provisional and subject to change in response to the ongoing pandemic.** The Orange Jackets Exec Board as well as the membership at large, is currently reimagining the Tappee experience and we hope to work together with the 2020 Tap Class to create a safe, welcoming, and most importantly, inclusive community for 2020 Tappees, regardless of their ability to meet any/all requirements listed below (including reimagining the Tappee Project to best meet our Tappees’ and our community’s efforts).

*As an Orange Jacket, I will fulfill the following requirements:*

* Attend general meetings
* Attend all Tap meetings
* Plan and complete a Tappee Project and fulfill duties outlined by Tap Trainers and fellow Taps
* Participate in one OJ committee and fulfill duties outlined by the committee chair
* Participate in a hosting experience each semester
* Participate in a service experience each semester
* Participate in a Settlement Home experience each semester
* Participate in a scholarship experience each semester
* Participate in a “reach-in” (social event) each semester
* Pay Tap dues of $77 for Fall semester (Spring dues are subject to change) in full or arrange and execute a payment plan and/or dues waiver application/scholarship.

*Tap dues for the Fall 2020 semester will cover the costs of initiation gifts, Big O/Lil J program, and an OJ shirt. The Tap dues amount for the Spring 2021 semester is subject to change and is dependent on the Spring semester plan administered by the University as Spring 2021 dues may additionally cover the costs of the OJ vest, nametag, membership overhead, funded OJ social events, special events costs, service materials, and a formal event. Despite this uncertainty, please know that financial concerns should in no way influence your applying to Orange Jackets. An applicant unable to pay dues may still join our organization if selected.* ***While our organization requires money to operate and fulfill our obligations, we have payment plans, full and partial scholarships/dues waivers to ensure that no one is discouraged from applying or maintaining membership because of an inability to pay; financial need does not need to be disclosed at the time of the application.***

* Attend Tap In on Wednesday, October 7 at 7pm
* Attend the Tap Retreat on Friday, October 9
* Attend the membership retreat on Friday, October 16
* Attend Big O-Little J Reveal on Wednesday, October 21
* Volunteer with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center for Luminarias

**RÉSUMÉ**

**SCHOLARSHIP**

**B.A., Government**; *Concentration: (optional)* May 2021

* Study Abroad in London: “Roots of Social and Economic Justice” *(Maymester 2016)*
* Undergraduate Research: Population Patterns in the United States *(October 2016 - May 2017)*

**LEADERSHIP**

**Liberal Arts Council –** *Public Relations Chair* 2017 - Present

*20 hrs/wk*

* Increase membership by 150% through effective advertising and public relations efforts
* Recruit guest speakers to discuss community development initiatives

**Phi Beta Chi: Women’s Business Fraternity –** *Secretary*Spring 2017 - Spring 2018

4 *hrs/wk*

* Directed networking events with local Austin professionals for Phi Beta Chi
* Taught educational workshops and seminars and coordinated guest speakers

**SERVICE**

**GirlAdvocates! –** *Mentor & Volunteer Coordinator* May 2017 - Present

*2 hrs/wk*

* Create topics of discussion for weekly visits to Webb Middle School
* Mentor underserved girls in topics such as self-image and relationship management

**Micah 6 Food Pantry –** *Volunteer* December 2018 - Present

*2 hrs/wk*

* Help distribute groceries and canned goods to low-income families

**Neighborhood Longhorns –** *Tutor* February 2017 - December 2018

*4 hrs/wk*

* Tutored 2nd and 3rd grade students in math and science
* Assisted with homework and state benchmark subject review

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

**State Senator Florence Shapiro –** *Intern* June 2020 - August 2020*20 hrs/wk*

* Performed legislative research, including bill tracking
* Acted as a form of communication between Senator’s office and constituents

**Human Development Lab –** *Undergraduate Research Assistant* October 2019 - May 2020

*5 hrs/wk*

* Analyzed historical data on population density to understand movement patterns
* Streamlined tracking process for record keeping

**Starbucks –** *Barista* November 2017 - August 2018

*15 hrs/wk*

* Served 45+ customers an hour while committing to addressing consumer needs

**HONORS**

* Cactus Yearbook’s Outstanding Student Award (May 2018)
* University Honors (May 2017 - May 2019)
* Rapoport Service Scholarship (May 2017)

**ESSAY QUESTIONS (Page 1)**

**Essay 1** (20-line limit) Scholarship means an insatiable desire to know and interact with something that is interesting and special and noteworthy to you, independent of the thoughts of others. Describe one experiencethat significantly influenced your scholarly interests (e.g. a course, a job, a person, or an extracurricular). Explain how you’re using your time at UT to further explore your passion.

**Essay 2** (20 lines) What does being a good leader mean to you? What is the toughest lesson you’ve learned as a leader? How have you grown as a leader *at UT or beyond* and how will you continue to grow?

**ESSAY QUESTIONS (Page 2)**

**Essay 3** (20 lines) What motivates you to serve? How does service or care for a particular community influence who you are? How do you currently devote your time to service, and how will you continue to do so in the future?

**Essay 4** (20 lines) What does Orange Jackets and “For Texas I Will” mean to you and to your community? What does community mean to you? How does Orange Jackets fit into that vision of care and change?

**ESSAY QUESTIONS (Page 3)**

**Essay 5** (One-page limit) Who are you? How have your various experiences and identities culminated in who you are today? The core purpose of The University of Texas at Austin is “to transform lives for the benefit of society.” How has/will your time at the University transform you as a person?

**SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

(One-page limit for all Q’s) To let us get the best idea of who you are, feel free to go into detail. These questions are for us to see your personality, so don’t be afraid to be honest and have fun with it!

**You’re a senior in high school applying to UT again. Your current major is no longer offered. What’s your new major and why?**

**There’s no cookie cutter OJ—we are all different flavors and attitudes and styles, just like the diverse array of Ben & Jerry ice creams. If you were a Ben & Jerry’s ice cream flavor, what would you be named?**

**“Welcome to my TED Talk.” But what’s it about? Tell us what you would title and talk about in your TED Talk (doesn’t have to be life-changing, super serious, or academic; be creative!).**

**When do you feel most empowered?**

**As mentioned, OJs work bimonthly with adolescent girls at The Settlement Home. Knowing what you know now, what would you tell your 13-year-old self?**

**If you could change anything about UT, what would it be and why?**

**Describe what inspires you about the person you look up to the most.**

**If we were not currently experiencing a pandemic, what would you like to be doing right now?**