The Wesleyan University Hamilton Prize for Creativity Submission Guidelines

The Wesleyan University Hamilton Prize for Creativity is a four-year full-tuition scholarship established in honor of Hamilton writer and star Lin-Manuel Miranda ’02 and director Thomas Kail ’99. There are also two Honorable mentions awarded each year, along with $5,000 stipends to support the students’ future creative endeavors. The Hamilton grand Prize will be awarded to the incoming student of Wesleyan’s Class of 2025 whose work of fiction, poetry, literary nonfiction, or other creative written expression (lyrics, plays, scripts, etc.) best reflects the originality, artistry, and dynamism embodied in Hamilton. To be eligible for the prize you must apply for admission to Wesleyan University and submit a sample of creative written expression.

Examples of acceptable submissions for the writing sample include:

Prose – 5-8 pages consisting of a single short story, excerpt of a longer piece of fiction (novella, novel, etc.), or literary nonfiction. All prose submissions must be double-spaced using 12-point Times New Roman font.

Poetry – 3-5 poems no more than 8 pages total.

Drama – A one act play or the first act of a full-length play using a standard play script format in 12-point font.

Slam Poetry – 3-5 poems no more than 8 pages total. You must submit the written text of the poems and you may choose to include a video or audio recording of your performance of the poem, though this is not a requirement.

Song Lyrics – 3-5 songs. You must submit the written lyrics and you may choose to include a sample of the songs accompanied by music and/or a musical score.

Screenplay – A script for a short film (10 minutes, or 15 pages, maximum) or no more than the first 15 pages of a longer or feature-length film using a standard script format in 12-point font. You must submit the written script and you may choose to include a film clip.

Other creative written work – 5-8 pages of any creative written work that does not fit into the genres listed above, but that you feel meets the spirit of boldness, innovation, and experimentation exhibited in Hamilton.
How to submit your Hamilton Prize materials:

Wesleyan University uses the Common Application or Coalition Application, which connect to the SlideRoom portal. To be eligible for the Hamilton Prize, you must submit a Common Application by the deadline appropriate to your admission round (ED1, ED2 or regular). However, you can submit your application and prize materials separately. The deadline to submit Hamilton Prize materials regardless of application round is January 1. You may log into SlideRoom to alter or edit your submission until January 1.

SlideRoom charges a fee to students. Applicants who are eligible for a Common Application fee waiver will have the SlideRoom fee waived.

If you are unable to submit your materials through the Common or Coalition Application (for example, if you are a QuestBridge applicant using the Questbridge Application), please visit https://wesleyan.slideroom.com/#/Login to access the SlideRoom portal.