**Hi xx**

I hope you remain interested in our program.

I’m sending out answers to common questions that students have about our Speech and Debate Program (sorry if this repeats; I may have sent it to you previously).

Feel free to email me with any specific question you might have.

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|  | * **Is \_\_ a good school for me?**

Your college choice should not be just about debate; it should also be about academics. We are xx list out your school’s unique and award winning features xx. Students on the team often major in Politics (and sometimes with an International Relations focus), Rhetoric (studying political argument), Philosophy, History, Gender Studies, Economics but also many other excellent programs that \_\_ offers.  |
|  | * **How does participating balance with other schoolwork?**

It depends on how much effort you want to put in. Students who want a low level commitment can choose an option to put in a few hours each week during the first 4 to 6 weeks of the semester and attend at most one tournament. Full time team members put in at least 6 hours per week. More engaged, national circuit students typically put in twice that and sometimes more. Full time members of the team tell me that competing makes juggling coursework a challenge but that it is manageable. The good grades they receive indicate that they are accomplishing this effort with success. We have had an Academic All-American Debater for the past 20 years in a row. |
|  | * **When are these tournaments?**

The tournaments are held on the weekends. For most Parli tournaments, we leave Thursday or Friday afternoon and return on Sunday evening. For most Policy and national Parli tournaments, we leave early Friday and return Monday or Tuesday evening. Students are excused from classes for these absences, though they do work with professors to makeup missed days and exams. We do not travel during the last month of each semester so students can focus on major papers and final examinations. |
|  | * **Who pays for these trips?**

\_\_\_ pays for the cost of travel to tournaments. Our program pays for transportation costs, hotel accommodations, food expenses, printing, and tournament entry fees. |
|  | * **How many tournaments do we go to?**

Policy debaters attend 3 to 5 tournaments in the fall; 5 to 7 tournaments in the spring. Parliamentary debaters attend 3 to 4 tournaments in the fall; 3 to 7 tournaments in the spring. The number of tournaments you attend depends on how many you want to attend and your level of competitiveness.  |
|  | * **Can I compete even though I have no experience?**

Yes. Some of our most successful competitors have started college debate with absolutely no experience. |
|  | * **What kind of coaching would I get?**

We emphasize hands-on coaching. You’ll do practice sessions where we provide extensive feedback several times each week. Coaches watch you in rounds at tournaments. We work collaboratively with students to prepare the best debate strategies. For policy debate, we establish research assignments and we’re there to help you find the materials you need. We also have extensive practice debates and drills and pre-round coaching. For parliamentary debate, we work with you to prepare for the topics you are likely to have and you work on case outlines. |
|  | * **What kind of arguments do \_\_ debaters use?**

Our debaters typically emphasize traditional policy arguments with topic specific plans, counterplans, disadvantages, and kritiks. Within that framework, students run all kinds of arguments. |
|  | * **What happens at these tournaments?**

Tournaments feature competitors from other colleges and universities. These tournaments are more or less like high school tournaments though they last longer. Policy tournaments typically have 6 to 8 rounds of debate plus elimination rounds and last 3 days (plus typically a day of travel before and after). Parli tournaments typically have 6 rounds of debate plus elimination rounds and they last 2 to 3 days including travel time. Some parli tournaments also offer extemporaneous and impromptu speaking. |
|  | * **What about national tournament travel?**

Students who work hard and excel have national travel opportunities on our squad. Nationally competitive Policy debaters attend such tournaments as Kentucky, Wake Forest, Northwestern, and of course, the NDT. Senior Parliamentary debaters attend such tournaments as the Washburn Swing, Mile High Swing, and of course, the NPTE.  |
|  | * **What about Scholarships?**

**\_\_\_ is affordable for most students.** The school has generous financial aid for all students demonstrating need. Xx identify any scholarships your program has and how and when to apply for them, and what students typically get these scholarships xx |
|  | * **Can I do individual events?**

Parliamentary debaters do extemporaneous or impromptu speaking at tournaments that offer those events. If you compete in policy debate, you cannot do individual events because they aren’t offered at policy tournaments.  |
|  | * **Do I receive credits for being on the team?**

Yes. Policy debaters receive 2 credits in Communication xx. Parliamentary debaters receive 2 credits in Communication xx. Students who want a lower level commitment with at max one tournament during a semester, receive 1 credit in Communication xx. |
|  | * **Can I study communication at \_\_\_?**

Yes. You can minor or major in our Rhetoric Studies department. Our department focuses on public argument, social activism, political communication, persuasion, rhetorical theory, movements, discourse analysis, legal communication, and rhetorical criticism.  |

* More questions? E-mail me at email address
* Check out our web page at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Director of Forensics

Communication Studies

\_\_ College

**Address**

**Email address**

**Phone number**