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THE ODYSSEY PROJECT

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2026-2027 The Odyssey Project Application

The application deadline is June 15, 2026.

Please fill in the information requested in the attached pages. Late applications may be considered at the discretion of the Director of Teaching and Learning and Site Coordinators.

All classes take place IN-PERSON. Instruction will take place on the South Side at Augustana Lutheran Church in Hyde Park, on the North Side at Haymarket House in Uptown, and on the Southwest Side at Instituto del Progreso Latino (in Spanish). For the health and safety of all members of the Odyssey community, Illinois Humanities strongly recommends, but does not require, vaccination against the COVID-19 virus.

If you have questions about this form, email Rebecca Amato, Director of Teaching and Learning, rebecca.amato@ilhumanities.org or 312-374-1550.

Please choose the site where you would like to take classes (circle one):

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North Side (Uptown) South Side (Hyde Park)

Proyecto Odisea (Little Village) Either North Side or South Side

Legal Full Name (First and Last)

Preferred Name (if applicable)

Gender (circle one):

Female Male Trans male/trans man

Trans female/trans woman Gender-queer/ gender non-conforming

Other identity (please explain):

Mailing Address (this should be an address where you can reliably receive mail on a regular basis)

Street Address:

Apartment or Unit Number:

City: State: Postal / Zip Code:

Main Phone Number: _____-_____-_____

Phone Type (circle one): Mobile/Cell Home Work

Alternate Phone Number: _____-_____-_____

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Phone Type (circle one): Mobile/Cell Home Work

Email address (this should be an email address you check regularly):

Will you be at least 18 years of age by August 1, 2026? (circle one)

Yes No

Have you applied to The Odyssey Project in the past? (circle one)

Yes No

If you answered "yes" to the above question, when did you apply to The Odyssey Project?

How did you learn about The Odyssey Project? If you were referred by an individual or organization, please provide the name.

To determine whether you are income eligible for The Odyssey Project, first determine the NUMBER OF PERSONS in your household, then look at the ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME level on the same line in the next column, and then answer "yes" or "no" on the same line in the next column if your yearly household income is LESS than that level:

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Persons in Household	Is your YEARLY household income LESS than……	Yes or No (write "yes" or "no" below)
1	$23,940	
2	$32,460	
3	$40,980	
4	$49,500	
5	$58,020	
6	$66,540	
7	$75,060	
8	$83,580	

If you do NOT meet income-eligibility requirements, but have special circumstances we should consider, please explain here.

In special cases we can offer some help with public transportation costs for students meeting in-person. Do you require financial assistance with transportation in order to attend class? (circle one)

Yes No

Please describe your transportation assistance needs.

In special cases we can offer some help with child or elder care. Do you require assistance with child or elder care as a condition of your participation in The Odyssey Project? (circle one)

Yes No

Please describe your child or elder care needs:

Please indicate the highest level of education you have completed. You do not need to have completed high school to participate in The Odyssey Project. The Odyssey Project is ONLY available to people who HAVE NOT already completed a Bachelor of Arts or Science (B.A./B.S.) degree. (circle one)

Did not complete high school High school degree/GED Certification program

Some college courses (no degree completed) Associate's degree (A.A.)

Tell Us About Yourself

In this section, you have the option of telling us a little bit about yourself in writing. We strongly encourage you to fill out this section even though it is optional.

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We'd like to know the following:

- Introduce Yourself: you may include whatever you like, including your history, your interests, your academic experiences (good or bad), or anything else you would like to tell us.

- Why do you want to study the humanities and what do you hope to gain? In this program, you will study some combination of history, literature, philosophy, art history, media studies, and college-level writing.

- What do you want to do or be able to do after participating in this program?

Tell Us About Yourself here. Feel free to attach additional pages if you wish.

Schedule an Interview

A 30-minute interview with one of our Site Coordinators is required as part of the admission process. In the interview, we will ask questions similar to those we have asked in the "Tell Us About Yourself" section.

Please provide a phone number below where you can be reached Monday through Friday, 9am to 5pm.

Illinois Humanities and The Odyssey Project do not discriminate in education, employment, admission, or services on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, race, color, age, religion, national origin, or handicapping conditions. Illinois Humanities is fully committed to treating all personal information collected on our applications confidentially. We do not share or sell personal information with anyone. Contact information we gather is used solely by our staff for the purpose of contacting you or sending you information based on your requests.

By signing below, I affirm that the information on this application is true to the best of my knowledge. I understand that admissions decisions are made at the discretion of the Director of Teaching and Learning and Site Coordinators based upon their best judgment.

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Sign full name: **Date:**

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this application! When you are ready, please mail it to us at:

The Odyssey Project
c/o Illinois Humanities
125 S Clark St Ste 650
Chicago, IL 60603-4048

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR APPLICATION IS POSTMARKED BY THE DEADLINE OF JUNE 15, 2026