SELF Program Application Information

For First-Year Students Entering in Fall 2025

Eligibility

- The SELF Program strives to develop goal-oriented engineering and computing graduates who possess the business, interpersonal, and entrepreneurial skills to guide the technology corporations of tomorrow.
    - Prospective students (incoming freshmen) must be eligible for admission to the KU School of Engineering (SOE). Although the SELF Program does not consider GPA in the selection process, candidates must have a 3.0 minimum high school GPA to be admissible to the SOE.
    - Complete and submit all application materials by the final deadline of December 1, 2024.
    - Applicants give permission to the selection committee to review all application materials.
    - Applicants must be willing to participate in interviews and other assessment methods employed as part of the selection process on Friday January 31, 2025. These activities are scheduled to be held in person on the KU School of Engineering Campus in Lawrence. Detailed information will be included when invitations are sent and candidates should plan to be available in-person Friday January 31, 2025. Applicants for whom travel to Lawrence presents significant challenges can request alternative options for Interview Day participation once invitations have been extended in December.
    - Applicants understand and accept the [responsibilities as a SELF Fellow](#).
- In the student's application, the committee will look for evidence of:
    - Leadership activities, as evidenced through participation in school or community organizations.
    - Extracurricular involvement or achievements that speak to a student's potential to meet the vision of the SELF Program.
    - A defined and clear commitment to pursue a career in engineering.
    - The student's leadership attributes and experiences.

Applying

- Interested students are encouraged to apply via the University's Application for Undergraduate Admissions **or** their University Applicant Status Portal.
- KU Application:
    - "SELF Program Supplement" will appear as an option on the left hand menu once you have entered your program as "School of Engineering."
    - The KU Application asks eligible students "Would you like to be considered for the SELF Fellowship program?"
    - To apply, select "Yes" and then complete all sections and submit.
- Applicant Status Portal:
    - If students choose not to apply at the same time they complete the Undergraduate Application for KU or apply via the Common App, they may still apply via their applicant status portal.
    - In the Applicant Status Portal, navigate to "My Checklist."
    - Under the "My Checklist" section, apply via the "Optional- SELF Fellowship Application" hyperlink.

Application Materials

- Essay Response
    - The mission of the Madison (Al) and Lila Self Engineering Leadership Program is to develop passionate engineering and computer science graduates who are strongly goal-oriented and who bring the business skills and vision needed to guide the technology-based corporations of tomorrow. Describe how your personal vision aligns with the mission of the SELF Program.
- Short Answer Response
    - Leadership, entrepreneurship and business are three points of emphasis for the SELF Program. Choose one of these and discuss specific actions that you might take and how you see yourself growing in this area during your time in the SELF Program and beyond.
- Participation Statement
    - Discuss an activity you are currently involved in and explain how it helped you realize that you wanted to pursue opportunities such as those offered by the SELF Program.

Applications and essay answers must be submitted on or before December 1, 2024. Strong candidates will be invited to interviews with committee members on Friday, January 31, 2025. Following interviews, students will be chosen to take part in the SELF Program at the start of the fall semester. All applicants will be notified of their status by the end of February 2025.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Madison A. and Lila Self Engineering Leadership Fellows Program (the "SELF Program") is to develop passionate engineering and computer science graduates who are strongly goal-oriented and who bring the business skills and vision needed to guide the technology-based corporations of tomorrow. The SELF Program will recruit, select and financially support students at the University of Kansas and administer to them an ongoing four-year personal development program that leads to a continuing supply of exceptional graduates at the bachelor of science level. By active participation in the program, the students will expand and refine their leadership, managerial, business, interpersonal, entrepreneurial, communication and engineering skills through mentoring, coursework, seminars and leadership opportunities. Graduates from the SELF Program will possess the personal attributes needed to become effective leaders who are motivated to make a real difference during their careers.

The SELF Program was made possible through a generous donation to the KU Endowment by Madison A. and Lila Self. The Selfs established the program with the intent that it makes a difference in the lives of students who will then rise to make a notable difference in the world. Madison "Al" Self was a 1943 KU chemical engineering graduate, successful businessman and recipient of the School of Engineering's Distinguished Engineering Service Award in 2000. The Selfs, native Kansans who met at KU, were long time and generous supporters of the university. Both passed away in 2013.