

For the past six years I have attended a summer camp hosted by my church filled with devotionals, songs, scriptures, skits, and recreational activities. I am always amazed with how uplifted and at ease I feel throughout the week. I feel similarly when I go to church each Sunday and when I attend weekly Youth Group activities, but these feelings seem to fade quickly as I head to school and go through my regular routine. As a Christian living in Silicon Valley, I am definitely in the minority. Even though I have found great friends who respect my beliefs, and I respect theirs, it is a wonderful feeling to be able to casually bring up God in a conversation and feel understood.

Having previously lived in Germany, I know what it feels like to have school and Christianity integrated, and I love it! We had a religion class and would walk over to the local Church. That's just one reason why I would love to attend Baylor- the fact that Christianity and education are blended. I appreciate that there are mandatory religion classes because that, to me, shows that those who will attend Baylor will, like me, be serious about growing spiritually as well as intellectually. This ties directly into the service culture at Baylor, which I am excited for because I believe that serving others is one of the best ways to spend my time. I can't wait to contribute to the spiritual community and have discussions about faith.

In addition to the appeal of a Christian environment, I am drawn to Baylor because of the campus and community. With the population being just over 16,000 students, there are enough students that I will be able to find my niche and have options for classes and majors, while still being able to be involved in serving the community or clubs.

With many different available resources and classes at Baylor, I believe that I will be able to get a quality education in a positive environment. I am particularly interested in the language programs for Chinese and German that are offered, including *Kaffeestunde* and opportunities to study abroad. I also appreciate that there are smaller class sizes offered so that professors can get to know their students on a personal level.

Even though I might not be eating S'mores at Baylor, due to the blending of faith and education, the community, and a quality education, Baylor would be a wonderful place for me to spend the next four years of my life.