Dear Dorm Rector/Hall Director:

Echo is a program of the University of Notre Dame (described briefly on the back of this page) that holds communal formation as an important dimension of holistic formation. We know how much Notre Dame, St. Mary’s, and Holy Cross value community through residence life, and we therefore see it as important to hear from you, someone who has related with our applicants from these three schools in a communal setting (namely, residential dorm life).

Due to the inherently collaborative and communal dimensions of the Echo Program, the Echo selection committee appreciates your general evaluation of the applicant’s worthiness for consideration. Specifically, we would like to know if the applicant is (or was) in good standing in your residence hall.

Please note: the applicant is procuring a full personal recommendation letter from someone who knows him/her well in a ministry or communal setting; nevertheless, the selection committee is very interested in your frank appraisal.

To that end, please prepare a brief letter that answers this simple question:

In relation to the residence hall where the applicant currently lives or has previously lived, I, as Rector, consider the applicant to be the following:

- [ ] In Good Standing
- [ ] Not in Good Standing
- [ ] I would like to speak with someone regarding this applicant

If you would like to comment further on the applicant’s standing or general presence relative to your residence hall, please feel free to do so in the letter. If you indicate in your letter that you would like to speak with someone regarding this applicant, a member of our staff will contact you.

Finally, you will submit your letter electronically, following prompts from the Notre Dame Graduate School. The GS will also prompt you to complete an Evaluation / Questionnaire regarding the applicant. Thank you for your thoughtfulness regarding this request.

For more information:  [http://echo.nd.edu/](http://echo.nd.edu/) | 574.631.2877 | echond@nd.edu
The Echo Faith Formation Leadership Program is a dynamic two-year, service, learning and formation program that focuses on forming leaders and serving the Catholic Church through partnerships between the University of Notre Dame and dioceses of the United States.

Echo participants benefit from a holistic formation process that prepares a new generation of well-formed and informed catechists and theology teachers, capable of witnessing to and passing on the faith. Echo partner dioceses provide parish and/or school settings as placements where participants can both learn about and serve their apostolate for two consecutive years.

Echo participants engage in a comprehensive formation program that involves the following dimensions:

1. **Intellectual Formation:** Scholarly work and study as an M.A. Theology graduate student at Notre Dame, and practical preparation for teaching the faith.

2. **Professional-Ministerial Formation:** Mentored-service in Echo as a parish apprentice or theology teacher.
   - Parish catechetical ministry: Direct service to Catholic parishes through a variety of catechetical ministries (such as RCIA, Youth Ministry, Adult Faith Formation, and Social Justice Ministry).
   - Theology teaching: Direct service to Catholic schools through teaching theology in the classroom, and engaging in extracurricular activities as time and formation commitments allow.

3. **Human & Communal Formation:**
   - Experience living and participating in an intentional faith community with other apprentices through common meals, prayer, and household responsibilities.
   - Experience human development in the context of community, and participate in workshops on topics such as communication, conflict management, healthy boundaries, family systems, emotional health, relationships and sexuality, and a commitment to engage in healthy integration of these areas.

4. **Spiritual Formation:** Participation in ongoing formation meetings, sacramental life, personal and communal retreats, prayer, and spiritual direction. Spiritual formation engages participants explicitly in the integration of all areas of formation, while growing in adult Christian discipleship.