

Graduate School: **PERSONAL STATEMENT**

Programs want insight into your academics, research, and career goals: beyond what test scores and transcripts can infer. This is your opportunity to write an authentic statement emphasizing your transferrable strengths, abilities, and experiences with relevant examples to show what sets you apart from other applicants. The [UW-Superior Writing Center](#) is a great resource to avoid spelling, grammatical, and structural errors.



GENERAL GUIDELINES

Follow application directions: most programs will tell you exactly how they want the essay formatted, structured, and word count limits. Some may include questions you will respond to within your statement. If there are no specifications, limit yourself to two (2) pages and write about the most vital aspects of your academic experiences and qualifications.



RESEARCH

Visit the institution and program website to pull information about faculty and their research, the courses offered, current student support and professional development activities. This can help you get a better understanding of the program objectives, what they may look for in a potential student, and if the program is a good fit for you.



BE SPECIFIC

Provide detailed examples of relevant experiences that prepared you for graduate school. Outline specific, transferrable skills you gained from the experiences. Recall brief anecdotes to strengthen your claims. Your examples should discuss your interest and knowledge specific to the program you are applying for. Describe the types of topics and areas you wish to study, including any specific research questions you have or research you wish to pursue.



AUTHENTICITY

Illustrate a unique angle or story to capture your reader's attention. If your statement is fresh and memorable, this helps distinguish you from the crowd of applicants. Ensure your angle is an original view and not too cliché.



REVISIONS

Proofread, proofread, proofread! Submit your personal statement to the UW-Superior Writing Center to ensure your essay is free of spelling, mechanics, or grammatical errors.

THE LINK CENTER

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