

DEVELOPING A PERSONAL STATEMENT

Knowing what information is required for you to include and understanding the general purpose of a personal statement are key components to making your application shine. Carefully follow instructions from each program you are applying for when creating your personal statement.

REMEMBER:

Pay attention to the application—make sure to answer the prompts you are requested to address. Lead into your answer with part of the question asked as a prompt.	Develop a “hook” to help your statement stand out from the rest of the application pool and incorporate this angle throughout your work. Make it memorable!	Understand the difference between word count (# of words) and character count (characters including spaces).	Be assertive—actively research where you are applying and incorporate this research into your work (avoid using the same document for multiple schools if possible).	Get specific—align your statements with specific and concrete examples and reasons (explain why you are a hard worker, why you would be a great fit to the program, etc.).
Be picky—don’t include certain topics, like accomplishments in high school, potentially controversial subjects, or notions you think the admissions committee wants to hear.	Avoid incorporating clichés—stay away from often-repeated and tired statements (“Ever since I was little I knew I wanted to be a...” or “My passion is to be a...”).	Stay away from strictly describing hardships—your statement won’t be effective if you just focus on difficult circumstances versus giving a sense of your qualifications and how they align with that program.	Be honest, confident and authentic within your work. You are special, wonderfully unique and would be a fantastic asset to the program just by being who you are.	Proofread your work carefully—check to make sure you used strong language, technical terminology from the field and you related your qualities/goals to the program.

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS:

The statement should be concise and not redundant, as it is used as an indicator of your writing ability and to determine whether or not the program suits your needs. You will be selected for an interview based on your carefully thought out responses to these questions. Furthermore, many of the interview questions from the admission committee/panel will be taken from this document. So, select your responses thoughtfully and authentically. When you have answered all the program’s questions and compiled your information into one document, have someone from Career Services edit and/or proof it with you. This must be error-free.