

# Statement of Purpose

Degree You Are Seeking (optional)

**IMPORTANT:** Your statement of purpose tells admissions officers why you're applying, why you are qualified, and why they should strongly consider you for the program. As such, thoroughly research each program you are applying to so you can reference your reasons for applying; know which aspects of the program you want to include in the statement. Always be cognizant of statement length or word requirements set-fourth by the application instructions.

**First paragraph:** Introduce yourself by briefly giving your background and current career goals or objectives. Your introduction should be relevant to the specific program you are applying to. Any information here needs to relate to specific aspects of the program.

**Second paragraph:** Explain how you became interested in your specific area of study. Make it clear that you have a background and goals related to the program you are applying to and why that leads to your interest in it. Don't give general reasons like, "I like helping people." General reasons don't help admissions officers understand you as an individual; think deeper. Why do you like helping people and how did you come to this realization? The more completely you understand your reasons, the better you'll be able to convince admissions officers you're the right choice.

**Third paragraph:** Briefly describe any experiences you already have in your area of study. Think of any jobs, internships, or projects you did. Look back to your first paragraph. This should be your point of reference when talking about your experience. The more direct the experience the better. If you do not have direct experience, choose the most closely related experience possible. Be sure to reference how your experience relates to the program. This will show that you have a clear understanding of what the program is and how you fit into it.

**Fourth paragraph:** Describe any other experiences you had that helped you decide on your specific area of study or helped you prepare for graduate studies in general. Do this as briefly as possible because your statement of purpose is not the place to give long and wordy narratives. If there is any other information you really think the admissions officer should know about you, include it here but clearly articulate the specific value these experiences add to your story. This is another chance to stand out and be unique, but it still needs to be tightly focused on explaining why you are the best person for the program.

**Closing paragraph:** Briefly describe your long-term career goals. Be clear and specific when you write this. Notice how this is a bit different than the current goal from the first paragraph where you should have mentioned what you want to do now. The closing paragraph discusses where you want to be years from now which shows that you clearly see yourself as using what you will learn to truly grow and contribute to your field of study. From the admissions perspective, they want to select students that have a long-term vision related to the program.