CRAFTING YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT

Graduate directors for both master’s and doctoral degree programs agree that the personal or professional statement is an important aspect of a prospective graduate student’s application.

Reviewers use personal statements to assess applicants’ communication skills, academic background, and potential fit. Before you start writing, take some time to think about the applicant you are and what makes you unique.

DON’T send a generic statement, using vague, simplistic language
DON’T specify why GSU
DON’T list what prompted you to apply
DON’T focus on storytelling what prompted you to apply
DON’T list your research interests
DON’T edit your personal statement

Instead, display your command of industry specific vernacular.

Success is often based on your ability to write with clarity and present information in a logical, well-supported manner.

Instead, use your statement as an opportunity to explore why you are passionate about the program to which you are applying.

Pro-tip: If you’re interested in being considered for an assistantship—teaching or otherwise—highlight your leadership skills.

DON’T SPECIFY WHY GSU

Instead, your statement is an opportunity to explore why you are passionate about the program to which you are applying.

Highlight how previous academic successes and research or job experiences have prepared you to succeed in graduate school. Link your previous education and work-related experiences to your learning goals.

For doctoral applicants, decisions are made, in part, based on the department’s ability to support research interests.

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Check for proper use of grammar and spelling.

QUESTIONs ABOUT APPLYING?
Contact the Office of Graduate Services.

DON’T send a generic statement, using vague, simplistic language

DO let your personality

DO share your research interests

DO list your research interests

DO explain any anomalies in your application

DO edit your personal statement

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SHARE YOUR MOTIVATIONS AND PASSION, SELL YOUR SKILLS, AND GIVE THE REVIEWER A CHANCE TO GET TO KNOW THE AUTHENTIC YOU.

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