



Statement of Purpose

Definition: A document that convinces the faculty on the selection committee at the desired institution that the student shows promise for success in graduate study.

The FOUR Requirements of a Statement of Purpose:

1. Introduction, Interests, and Motivations

- Tell them who you are and what you hope to achieve in the future. You may indicate how you have prepared for graduate school as well.
- Explain what inspired you to advance your education in the desired graduate study and identify your desired graduate program.
- This section should be brief and straightforward

2. Your Past: Summarize Academic Career and Work Activities

- Explain the research projects you conducted as part of your previous undergraduate or graduate program(s). Indicate with whom, the title of the project, what your responsibilities were, and the outcome of the research
- You might also indicate an important paper or thesis project you completed
- Specify any previous extra-curricular scholarly work related to this discipline
- Identify and explain work experience, especially if you had responsibilities in an area similar to your desired course of study in graduate school
- If you graduated and worked prior to graduate school, express what you have been doing: company or non-profit, responsibilities, and any lessons learned
- Indicate how previous work has inspired or prepared you to select this grad program

3. Your Hopes for Grad School: Elaborate on Academic Interests

- Elaborate on your desired course of study in detail to convince the committee that you understand research expectations and are engaged with current research trends
- Specify why this particular university would best meet your education goals. Identify research departments and professors you might work with

4. Your Future Plans: Explain How Grad School connects to Goals

- Identify how this particular graduate degree will help you meet your future career goals. Explain the connections between graduate work and long term aspirations
- End in a positive manner, reflecting your enthusiasm for the challenges ahead!
- Remember to follow the university's guidelines for formatting and length.