

Statement of Purpose Guidelines

Anthropology	500 word essay stating reasons for doing graduate work in Anthropology & indicating major interests within Anthropology.
Archives and Records Management	No specific guidelines. Tell us what you think we need to know about you and your goals and interests.
Biology	Please address research interest(s) and potential adviser(s) within department.
Chemistry	A statement of research interests and future goals, including identification of up to three potential faculty research advisors.
Comm. Sci. & Disorders SLP	ONE-PAGE, single-spaced, 12 font, letter stating your purpose for advanced study in your area of interest. (The committee will not read longer letters)
Continuing and College Education	300 - 500 word Statement of Purpose - Describe your past experience working with adults as a volunteer or an employee, particularly in an education capacity; your understanding of and commitment to the field of continuing and college education, why you are interested in pursuing this particular degree, and how you see this degree program fitting with your career goals.
Elementary Education	Brief 300-500 word statement of personal career goals and reasons for seeking admission to the M.Ed. program.
English	In a statement of purpose of approximately 750 words, you should demonstrate your skill as a writer and thinker as you explain your intellectual, academic, and/or creative interests and your professional goals. Reviewers value essays that are intellectually mature, coherent, and well organized. They are also interested in essays that are precise and specific. For example, it is a good idea to avoid overly general statements such as "I have a passion for literature."
Environmental Science	One- to two-page statement of purpose indicating which specialization the applicant is most interested in, explaining why the applicant wishes to pursue graduate studies in environmental science, and what future expectations s/he has for the M.S. degree. The statement may indicate a preferred faculty adviser. Students are encouraged to review faculty research interests as described on the Huxley Web Site (http://www.ac.wwu.edu/~huxley/gradinfo.html) prior to contacting potential faculty advisers. Students are admitted into the program <i>only</i> upon agreement of a faculty adviser.
Exercise Science	Please outline areas of interest, goals for graduate study and future career plans related to the degree.

Experimental Psychology	<p>Please write a brief essay answering the following questions and requests for information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are your career goals? How do you see the M.S. General curriculum contributing to those goals? 2. Please describe any research experiences you have had. If you have conducted research, either independently or in collaboration with others, please briefly describe the research and your role in it. Was it published or presented at a meeting or professional conference? Describe the research interests you would like to pursue in graduate school. Identify the WWU faculty members whose research interests you and with whom you would like to work. 3. Please describe any volunteer or work experience that you have had that is essentially psychological in nature. Indicate the amount of time you devoted to the activity. 4. Please provide any additional information that you think will help us get to know you so that we can make an informed decision about your application.
Geography	<p>One- to two-page statement of purpose indicating which specialization the applicant is most interested in, explaining why the applicant wishes to pursue graduate studies in geography, and what future expectations s/he has for the M.S. degree. The statement may indicate a preferred faculty adviser. Students are encouraged to review faculty research interests as described on the Huxley Web Site (http://www.ac.wwu.edu/~huxley/gradinfo.html) prior to contacting potential faculty advisers. Students are admitted into the program <i>only</i> upon agreement of a faculty adviser.</p>
Geology	<p>Statement of your goals and expectations of the graduate program at Western</p>
History	<p>No specific guidelines. Tell us what you think we need to know about you and your goals and interests.</p>
Marine and Estuarine Science MESP BIO MESPE S	<p>The “statement of purpose” is a chance to show who you are beyond what is contained in your transcripts and your GRE report. Reviewers will use it to evaluate your experience, goals, motivation, enthusiasm and research interests. Your statement gives you an opportunity to explain anything in your “data” that may be unclear to the reader. You can highlight your strong points, particularly if they are not adequately expressed in your other materials. You can also discuss weaknesses in your record. This isn’t a chance to make excuses; instead, candidly discuss any extenuating circumstances that may help the reviewer understand you background.</p> <p>Your statement will be read by a review committee and by potential faculty advisers. Be sure to give some indication of the topic(s) you wish to pursue in graduate school and what adviser(s) you would like to work with. Your application will be stronger if you have actually communicated with those individuals beforehand and know that they are accepting students. You do not have to know your precise thesis topic; it is good to be flexible. However, it is inadequate to simply state that you like the oceans. Advisers like applicants who have thought about their future, know something about the field, and have developed their own interests.</p> <p>There is no set length for the statement of purpose. Half a page is too short; 4 pages is probably too long. Make sure the statement is well written as reviewers will use it to assess your writing ability. Use good structure and vigorously edit out grammatical errors, spelling mistakes and typos. It generally helps to have someone else (a friend, colleague, or professor) read and critique the statement.</p>

Master in Teaching	<p>A personal statement that describes your experience(s) with adolescents and your background as it applies to the teaching profession. Secondary Education faculty believe experience with diverse, multi-cultural populations benefits prospective teachers, so be sure to include any and all background or experience you've had with diverse populations.</p>
Master of Business Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A statement of background -An assessment of the skills and knowledge you currently have -A description of the skills and knowledge you hope to acquire -A statement of your long-term career goals
Mental Health Counseling (Psychology)	<p>Please write a brief essay answering the following questions and requests for information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What do you consider to be the primary role of a mental health counselor? 2. What experiences in life, work, and/or schooling have you had that are relevant to the counseling profession? 3. Specifically why have you selected WWU's counseling program? At this time, what are your long-range professional plans in the field of mental health? 4. Research expertise is an integral part of your training. Please indicate at least two areas of clinical research and/or practice in which you are interested.
Political Science	<p>Two-page statement of purpose should explain why the applicant wishes to pursue graduate work in political science. It should also indicate which track and/or field of concentration the applicant intends to pursue.</p>
Rehabilitation Counseling	<p>A three to four page typed statement of purpose. This should be a succinct statement that provides an accurate indication of writing and grammatical skills, in addition to the applicant's reasons for applying to the program.</p> <p>The personal statement should address: (a) career objectives, (b) rationale for seeking the Master's degree and choosing the WWU program, (c) professional and personal strengths as they apply to the field of rehabilitation counseling, (d) related work experiences, (e) the way in which personal and professional life experiences have converged to motivate application to the program, (f) a statement of goals and interests that demonstrates and illustrates the applicant's personal value system, and (g) other insights as deemed appropriate by the applicant.</p>
School Counselor (Psychology)	<p>Please write a brief essay answering the following questions and requests for information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What stimulated your interest in school counseling as a career? 2. What do you consider to be the current role of the school counselor? 3. What personal qualities do you possess that you believe would contribute to your effectiveness as a counselor? 4. What causes you to be interested in the program at WWU?
Science Education	<p>Statement of personal career goals and reasons for seeking admission to the M.Ed. program.</p>

Special Education	One to two page essay (single spaced, 12 point font) addressing your purpose for pursuing graduate study in the field of Special Education, including experience with people who have disabilities, defining events or landmark incidents, specific areas of interests, and/or career goals.
Sport Psychology	Please outline areas of interest, goals for graduate study and future career plans related to the degree.
Student Affairs Administration	A two page statement which addresses: Relevant experiences, Qualities and characteristics which make you a strong applicant, Demonstrated interest in the student affairs field, Your learning goals for the program How the program relates to your career goals.