

Graduate School Essay

Writing a *personal statement* for graduate school can feel daunting, but it doesn't have to be. Think of this essay as **a window to share your own story** and represent who you are to the admissions committee. Write in a way that lets them hear your voice and demonstrates your willingness to learn as an amateur in the field. And don't forget to respond to **all** parts of the prompt while following the word limit.

Your goal is to **persuade the committee** that you are an outstanding applicant. Partner with someone you trust to provide feedback while writing your essay(s) and **utilize the support** you have through FPU's Academic Success Center where you can [book free in-person/virtual support from a writing tutor](#).

Need help with just getting started? Check out [Purdue OWL's Writing the Personal Statement](#) to help with brainstorming before you write and [STAR Method](#) to help with breaking down specific stories to share.

TIPS FOR WRITING YOUR GRADUATE SCHOOL PERSONAL STATEMENT

1. Write using an active, confident tone and in present tense.
2. Write clear and concise sentences.
3. Write a clear introduction, body and conclusion.
4. Write academically without slang, contractions, clichés or other informal types of writing.
5. Write for the tone set by the audience and writing prompt.
6. Use the same tense throughout or make distinct tense changes.
7. Paragraphs should have a topic sentence, explanatory or supportive sentences and provide analysis.
8. Share yourself with confidence and precision.
9. The reader has no idea who you are. Write so it becomes evident to him or her.
10. Use correct grammar and spelling.

Additional Resources

- [California State University](#) | Sample Essays for those Applying to CSU Programs
- [GradSchools.com](#) | Personal Statement Examples for Graduate School
- [Peterson's](#) | Top Graduate School Essay Writing Mistakes You Must Avoid
- [Peterson's](#) | Write a Graduate School Essay that will Knock Their Socks Off
- [FPU Career Development Center](#) | Comprehensive Graduate School Guide