

## Writing a Statement of Purpose

Graduate School is meant to be intensive training for the next step in your career. A graduate program takes several years to finish, and both our Physiology degrees (Master's and Doctorate) require original research. Your Statement of Purpose gives the Admissions Committee insight into your readiness and interest in our program.

### What are we asking for?

You're probably writing one Statement of Purpose that you hope to use for applications to multiple schools. This will suffice for your general comments, because nearly all Physiology programs will want to know:

- Why do you want to go to graduate school?
- Why do you want to study Physiology?
- What do you think you'll do with your degree after you graduate? Or how will you use your Physiology research training in your anticipated career?

In addition to those topics, the Department of Physiology at Wayne State University often wants to know:

- Do you have research experience?
  - If so, what research skills did you learn from that experience? How did your prior research exposure influence your decision to apply to our program?
  - If you do not have research experience, what experiences have you had that led you to apply to our program?
- What are your current research interests?
- How will research help you in attaining your career goals?
- What ongoing research in the Department interests you?
  - Look at the faculty listing of our website (primary, Adjunct, and Reproductive Sciences faculty). Faculty who are actively seeking graduate students have a listing that they are accepting students for thesis research in the program for next year.
  - Who are you interested in working with and why are you interested in working with them?
- Is there something in your academic background that we should reconsider? For example, do you have bad grades or limited experience in chemistry, biology, or mathematics? If so, what are you doing to ensure this won't hinder your progress as a graduate student?

Help us make an easy decision. As a graduate student, you'll be called upon to do difficult coursework and research, which will consume a large part of the next two to five years of your life, depending on which program you are applying for. And you'll have to get along with a diverse group of colleagues who will sometimes work very closely with you. Any experience in school, work, or your extracurricular life that speaks to those abilities is worth talking about.

### Don't Forget

Your Statement of Purpose is formal writing on which you'll be judged; don't forget to proofread your essay. While the writing must be your own, you can seek feedback from others on the content. Faculty, who you are considering to write your recommendation letters, are often excellent resources to help with this.

