

GUIDELINES ON STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Statement of Purpose (SOP), even called Personal Statement, is an essay that describes who and what you are, why you want to pursue a particular course of studies at the given moment of time in your life and how the studies will help you achieve your goals.

While writing statement of purpose, look back at your experiences and accomplishments and think how these have influenced your values, perception, thinking and approach to life. SOP demonstrates your writing ability as well as your clear intentions to apply to that particular course.

The Statement of Purpose should be written in a manner that makes the student distinguish herself/himself from other applicants. You are an unknown individual, and therefore it is important that you portray yourself as an interesting, committed student who will contribute immensely towards their program. This must be well written with conviction.

The required length of the SOP is 800-1200 words. Do not write more than 2 pages (A4 size). Use Times New Roman font of size 10-12.

Why universities ask for SOP?

Schools want to ensure that you have given serious thought to your future career.

- They want to be sure that their program fit with the future that you have envisaged for yourself.
- They want to know whether you have the academic preparation
- They want to know why this is the appropriate time.

How to write an SOP?

Students are requested to incorporate the following points in the first draft of SOP. Each point can constitute a paragraph.

1. Create introduction and conclusion paragraphs.
2. Write about your family background, schooling and any specific achievements during schooling and how these formative years have shaped you as an individual and what values did you imbibe during the same.
3. Write about special skills you possess communication, leadership, analytical, creativity, etc. relate these skills to your background
4. Write about the development of interest towards a particular field by correlating it with past experiences (academic or non-academic)
5. Brief on college/professional education years and the reason for choosing the particular field of study.
6. Give the details of the project you have worked on.
7. If you have been working, give the details of responsibilities shouldered and how this experience has impacted you professionally and personally (for graduate courses). Also highlight career progression and the professional achievements if any.
8. Give your short term/ long term goals (academic and professional).
9. Convey the need for wanting to pursue a particular course of studies at the given point of time in life and correlating the same with your short-term and long term goal.
10. Write a brief description of your major/course/specialization that you like to pursue in USA.