



Research Statement Template

An academic research statement has many purposes. It may be submitted as part of an application packet during job searching. Many universities require a research statement as a component of tenure and promotion dossiers. Research statements may also be requested as part of a grant application or submission of a nomination for an award. Finally, research statements can serve as the basis for text on your website or other social media profiles.

ACW recommends that you prepare a strong two-page, single-spaced statement that is concise and convincing, which can be customized to specific situations. When preparing a research statement for a particular purpose—such as a job or grant application—be sure to inquire about the guidelines. The length of the statement varies between one and five pages.

Writing a research statement provides you with an opportunity to convey to others your enthusiasm for your scholarly work and its importance to the field. This document is about **you**: who you are as a researcher, what interests you, where you see yourself going. A well-crafted research statement will articulate:

- Your ability to succeed based on your prior successes and a clear research agenda
- What you have been working on recently, in what direction you hope to go, and how your research contributes to your field
- Your areas of specialty, potential for grants and peer-reviewed publications, and overall scholarly ability

The ACW research statement template provides a structure for the research statement and is divided into five sections with instructions for each section. After you draft your academic research statement, ask multiple people in your academic support network to review and comment on it prior to submitting it.

Academic Research Statement Template

Section I: Introduction to Your Research Agenda

Instructions: Identify and take a stance on your primary research questions and themes as well as on their merit. Demonstrate your creativity, passion, and drive to take on the research you propose. Convince your reader that you are ideally suited to carry out the proposed research. Don't be shy: Use personal pronouns such as "I" and "my." Make it clear that your agenda is focused, well-articulated, and aligned with who you are as a scholar.

Section II: Areas of Current Focus

Instructions: In this section, write about the big unaddressed problems your research investigates. If you have multiple areas of focus, be sure to create subheadings for each and fully describe them. Discuss your research in a sophisticated manner, incorporating the big problem, challenge and approach.

Because interdisciplinary work and collaborations are becoming more valued by some universities and funders, you may wish to highlight these. Explain key collaborations and give details of your role and original creative contributions. For interdisciplinary work, detail the scope of the research and its significance to the fields involved. Explain how the research is improved through an interdisciplinary approach.

Section III: Importance and Significance

Instructions: Explain the importance and significance of your research in enough detail that it is understandable to people within and outside of your field. Discuss what is novel, exciting and creative about your research. Make the connections between

your research and real-world applications. Convey what counts as success in your current and subsequent research. Indicate grants you have received, collaborations you have created, and research that has been published.

Section IV: Future Research Projects and Goals

Instructions: Map out your trajectory for upcoming research projects in the next few years. The subheadings in this section will likely align with Section II, and should explain how the current/past research conducted is leading to future research projects. Additionally, if you plan to branch out into new areas or develop new collaborations, mention those here. For job applications, you may wish to append a multi-academic year plan of research projects and publications.

Section V. Summary

Instructions: Don't let your research statement just trail off. Provide a strong ending for the reader that summarizes you and your research in two to three sentences. You may wish to modify the summary paragraph to align it with a specific purpose, like a job announcement or grant RFP.