

Autobiographical Statement:

Length: Not to exceed five (5) pages (double-spaced; 12-point font)

Content: We would like to know something about who you are, why you are interested in this degree, what you plan to do with this degree and what pieces of your life you would like to grow.

Format: In five pages or less, you are to produce an autobiographical statement that gives us a sense of you (past, present and future). Please include each of the following construct areas as major headings in your paper:

- Why are you pursuing this degree?
- How do you plan to use this degree in the future?
- What will you bring to the program (personally and/or professionally)?
- Describe your characteristics that make you effective in working with people
- Describe your characteristics that you feel you need to develop to work more effectively with people?
- How do you best learn complexities of the world; especially those that contradict previous knowledge?
- Describe personal/professional experiences with individuals who differ from you in regard to race, culture, gender, sexual orientation and/or religious/spiritual beliefs.

NOTE: It is both wise and critical that you distinguish your responses to each of the prompts above by using examples and specific information. General statements (e.g., I am a really good listener) that are not supported by specific examples will detract from your overall score.

Evaluation: We are using your autobiographical statement to assess both your match with the program/field and your writing skills. Pay attention to style, grammar, punctuation, wordings and flow.