

Your Grad School Personal Statement

What is it?

Different from your undergraduate college application essay, **your grad school personal statement is about your professional interests and motivation for pursuing an advanced degree in your chosen field.** This statement is about your motivation to attend grad school and how your experiences contributed to that, not about your qualifications to attend. **We recommend asking faculty, the BU Writing Lab, the CDO, and other advisors to review your statement before submitting it.**

What do I include?

Topic	Writing Tips	Example
What made you interested in this field of study?	This is your hook to compel the reader to continue	"Competing on my FIRST Robotics team in high school furthered my interest and lead me to apply to the mechanical engineering program at BU."
What experiences furthered your interest & how?	Consider past projects, research, & internships that deepened your understanding of this field of study	"My internship at X Bio taught me about the challenges with machine learning in medical imaging."
What do you hope to do with this degree?	Long term goals, not too specific	"I hope to combine my technical expertise and passion for food access to contribute to sustainable farming efforts."
Why do you want to attend this university & which professors do you want to work with?	Use the university's website to learn about the university's reputation, research areas, & specific professors' research interests	"The BU Biomedical Engineering Department's reputation as a leader in Neurobiological research deepens my desire to participate in the cutting edge research done by Professors _____ and _____."