



**CAL STATE LA**  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LOS ANGELES

## Statement of Purpose

Each applicant must submit a statement of purpose. The statement of purpose is your opportunity to help reviewers better understand your academic objectives and determine if you are a good match for the field to which you are applying.

**Length and Format:** The statement should be one or two pages. Include your full name and the proposed field of study at the top of each page. Please use a standard font and font size for ease of reading.

**Topic:** The statement of purpose should include your reasons for undertaking graduate work and an explanation of your academic interests, including their relation to your undergraduate study and professional goals. Some fields ask that you address particular questions in your statement of purpose. Please check with your field for field requirements.

### 1. Introduction: Your Passion and Motivation

**Brief Background:** Mention when and how you became interested in the field. Make sure this section ties into why you want to pursue graduate studies.

### 2. Academic Background and Research Experience

**Highlight Your Academic Journey:** Discuss relevant coursework, projects, or papers you've written during your undergraduate years or in professional settings.

**Research Experience:** If you've participated in research, describe the project, your role, and what you learned. Mention specific methodologies, tools, or skills you've developed.

**Relevance to Graduate Studies:** Show how these experiences have prepared you for graduate school and how they align with your future goals.

### 3. Professional Experience and Skill Set

**Work or Internships:** If you have professional experience, internships, or volunteer work related to your field, describe it here. Explain how it has prepared you for graduate studies.

**Transferable Skills:** Highlight skills such as leadership, teamwork, project management, or technical expertise that will support your success in graduate school.

#### **4. Why This Graduate Program?**

**Tailor to the School:** Explain why you want to attend this particular program.

**Alignment with Goals:** Show how the program will help you achieve your academic or professional aspirations.

#### **5. Future Goals and Career Aspirations**

**Short-term and Long-term Goals:** Explain what you plan to do after completing your graduate degree. Are you aiming for a PhD, industry work, or a career in academia, government, or nonprofit organizations?

**How the Degree Fits:** Show how the graduate degree is a necessary step in achieving your career goals.

#### **Final Tips:**

**Be Authentic:** Share your genuine motivations and interests.

**Tailor It:** Customize your SOP for each program you're applying to. Mention specific faculty, projects, or aspects of the program.

**Stay Concise:** Most SOPs are around 500-1000 words. Be clear and focused.

**Proofread:** Ensure there are no spelling or grammatical errors, and have someone else review it for feedback.