

Personal Statements

If you're planning to attend graduate or professional school, you'll need to write a personal statement. A personal statement is a brief 1-2 page essay about who you are, what your professional and/or personal goals are, and how furthering your education will help you attain your goals. Sometimes schools will give you specific guidelines, but the purpose of the essay is still the same, no matter the school: "convince us why you should be in our program." The resources below can help you craft effective personal statements.

Career Library Books

- **General:**
 - ED.04 Perfect Personal Statements by Mark Alan Stewart
 - ED.17 & 17a Graduate Admissions Essays by Donald Asher
 - ED.79 How to Write a Winning Personal Statement by Richard Stelzer
- **Business School:**
 - ED.36 Great Application Essays for Business School by Paul Bodine
 - ED.14 Business School Admissions Adviser by Kaplan
- **Sciences /Engineering & Veterinary School:**
 - ED.64 Writing Personal Statements & Scholarship Application Essays by Joe Schall
 - ED.66 Get Into Veterinary School by Joseph M. Piekunka
- **Medical & Law School:**
 - ED.13 The Pfizer Medical School Manual by Mike Magee
 - ED.56 Medical School Admissions Advisor by Kaplan
 - ED.57 Law School Admissions Advisor by Kaplan

Online Resources

Penn State Career Services – http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/career/pdf/CG/CG_gradschool.pdf
About.com – <http://gradschool.about.com/od/essaywriting/>
[All About the Graduate Admissions Essay.htm](http://www.about.com/od/essaywriting/All_About_the_Graduate_Admissions_Essay.htm)
Univ. of California Berkeley – <http://career.berkeley.edu/Grad/GradStatement.stm>
Carnegie Mellon Univ. Health Program – <http://www.cmu.edu/hpp/achieve/pstips.html>
Purdue University – <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/642/01/>
Indiana University – http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/personal_statement.shtml
Quint Careers – http://www.quintcareers.com/graduate_school.html
MBA Explorer tips & samples – <http://www.mbaexplorer.com/mba-admissions/mba-essays.htm>
GRE general practice tests – <http://tinyurl.com/8juhqc>