

## Personal Statements

### What should I write about?

The hardest part of crafting a personal statement is just getting started! First make sure that you have read the prompt and any page, word, or character limits for your personal statement. You may want to start with a rough draft that isn't specific to any school just to get your thoughts out and begin organizing them. Career Services can help you clarify and organize your thoughts in a way that tells your story to the Admissions committee.

Remember, this is all about you and should really highlight the great things you have to offer that program. Some key things to include in a general personal statement include:

- Why are you interested in Graduate/Professional school?
- Why are you passionate about this career field?
- Why is our school or program a great fit for you and why now?
- What is it about you that makes you stand out as a candidate?
- How will this degree help further your career goals?

### Things to Avoid in your Personal Statement

Just like there are certain things you want to make sure and address in your personal statement, there is some information that is better left out.

- Avoid simply rewriting information from your resume
- Avoid using quotes, being cheesy, or cliché this doesn't help set you apart
- Avoid being too confident about getting into this program
- Avoid writing what you think the Admissions office wants to hear from you
- Avoid retelling your whole life story, most personal statements are only 2-5 pages long

### Make it about your Passion

Hopefully you are applying for Graduate/Professional school because you have a genuine passion for what you want to do in your career. Make sure that your personal statement really demonstrates your passion and how this program will help you achieve your career goals in that field.

Tell stories and give examples of how you have come to be passionate about pursuing this education. Being yourself and telling great stories about how you have gotten to this point will make you stand out in a great way to the Admissions committee. Don't feel like you have to get too personal, only share information that you feel comfortable with your prospective school knowing about you.

Some experiences that might help inspire your personal statement: educational journey, work experience, job shadowing, a mentor, study abroad experience, extracurricular activities, church involvement, mission trips, community service, and other significant life experiences.

### Ask for Help

This process is challenging, but with a little bit of help you can really shine as a candidate. Don't forget that Career Services and the Writing Center are here to help you proofread and refine your personal statement!

Contact UMHB Career Services at 254-295-4691 for help!