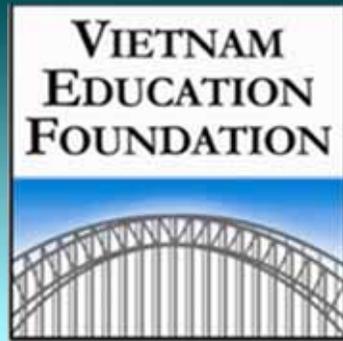




How to Write a Successful Statement of Purpose and Graduate Admission Committees: The Application Process

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Vietnam Education Foundation
University Application
Orientation (UAO)
October 2, 2011

<http://www.statementofpurpose.com/>



ADMISSIONS

...What's your story?

STATEMENTOFPURPOSE.COM

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ESSAYS

UNIVERSITIES

HAVE PURPOSE?

MAKE STATEMENT

or the past four months I have been working as a project trained and development of a "BC Controlled Digital Serial Data Generat

statement of purpose



THERE IS A WEBSITE THAT IS CALLED:

<http://www.statementofpurpose.com/>

The Statement of Purpose is the single most important part of your application that will tell the admissions committee who you are, what has influenced your career path so far, your professional interests and where you plan to go from here.

statement of purpose



Statementofpurpose.com

...what's your story

Home | Writing Tips | Sample Essays | FAQs | Resources | Blog | About Us | Contact

What the site contains:

- What is a Statement of Purpose?
- What do colleges look for in an SoP?
- How do I start writing mine?
- How do I polish my SoP?
- Can I see some sample SoPs? *Updated*
- What about recommendation letters?
- Can you help me with Scholarship SoPs? *New*
- What other resources can I tap?

My decision to pursue graduate study in the United States is und...
...university offers the flexibility needed for such a vast and...
...communications is an industry that has changed our lives. In a...
...ventures. It is one industry that is going to shape our future for...
...communications...
...my interest in electronics b...
...people in India. How... engineering with electronics as my major...
...my undergraduate study electronics is a subject that has...
...linear electronics, Digital Electronics. These form the foundation f...
...ater stage. My undergraduate studies already focus on ta...
...with communication as a major field is the next logical st...
...for the past four months I have been working as a project trainee...
...and development of "PC Controlled Digital Serial Data Conv...

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The Statement of Purpose

a statement of purpose
should include:

- **who you are;**
- **what has influenced your
career path so far;**
- **your professional interests;**
- **where you plan to go from
here.**



statement of purpose according
to the princeton review



- **what you want to study at graduate school?**
- **why you want to study it?**
- **what experience you have in your field?**
- **what you plan to do with your degree once you have it?**

u.s. higher education



In the U.S. there are about 75,000 Ph.D. degrees awarded every year; 35,000 to males and 40,000 to females.

In 2009-2010 there were 2,774 four year institutions; 672 public, 1539 private nonprofit, and 563 private for profit.

According to the 2010 Carnegie classifications of institutions, 449 of those grant doctoral degrees.

doctoral granting universities in the u.s. - 2010



2010 Classifications – Number of Institutions By Doctorate Category

Single doctoral (education)	55
Single doctoral (other field)	58
Comprehensive doctoral with medical/veterinary	84
Comprehensive doctoral (no medical/veterinary)	79
Doctoral, humanities/social sciences dominant	5
Doctoral, STEM dominant	47
Doctoral, professional dominant	121
Total Doctorate Granting	449

the point?



Each of the 449 institutions has its own application forms, its own application process, its own grumpy old faculty, its own application review process and its own admission recommendation policies. My comments address the writing of an State of Purpose (SoP) which is required by almost all institutions in one form or another.

princeton review advice to International students



Write, rewrite and rewrite your statement of purpose. Have a native English speaker read it to make sure you haven't made any major mistakes. Do NOT, however, get someone else to write your statement for you. You will be immediately rejected if (and when) you are caught.

dennis' personal list for you



i was coordinator of our graduate program in sociology for years; i was dean of graduate studies for seven years; i sent my list to friends who were dean's or department chairs for their advice. here is my personal advise to you:

know what is being asked for



Know what is being asked for
from the university – respond to
what is asked for – no matter how
well written, if you are not
responding to what was requested
it will not be good.

not an english test....



The SoP is not a test of your English; your English is measured by the TOEFL test or the IELTS.

You should have your SoP reviewed for English mistakes, but it is not a test of English.

it is not cheating



It is not cheating to ask for help in reviewing your work; It is cheating to ask someone else to write your SoP for you; most professionals ask colleagues to review their work.

not an intelligence test



The SoP is not an assessment of your intelligence; nothing you do in the SoP is going to compensate for your academic record as contained in your official transcript.

who are you?



The “who are you?” should NOT be what they can already read - your application, transcript, or resume. The SoP should be who you really are. If you were going to tell me - and I am not going to make any judgment about your scholarship or your admission - what would you want me to know?

how did you get to here?



How did you get to where you are today? What are the big things in your life that account for the fact that you have a VEF scholarship and are applying for admission to a U.S. University?

professional you?



What are your professional interests? How have those interests impacted your life; not only your academic life but in other aspects of your life. Why did you choose your field of study?



what they can't read



What are your academic experiences outside the classroom? Is there research that you have been involved with, possible job or internship that involved you with the problems you wish to study? Don't just tell stories about how you always wanted to do this – they want to know what you have done that is related to your goals, your ability to do graduate work and to your ability to have a successful professional life.

know the university



You really need to know the institution you are applying to; you need to be able to weave into you SoP the junction between your professional interests and your selection of this particular university. Each application should be unique and demonstrate that the student has done the homework on determining why the program is a good fit.

what are your plans?



**What are you going to do in the future?
Don't say return to Vietnam and save
your country; everybody says that. Talk
about how you will use your degree and
training to benefit you and your
homeland. Draw on your dreams and
your ambitions. Make this section real
and personal and believable.**

writing the SoP



- gather your materials
 - have your entire application package in front of you – CV, transcripts, letters of recommendation, test scores
 - go to the university websites you are interested in applying to
 - ensure you know the word count and include everything they are looking for.
 - That you know details about the department, faculty and program you are applying too.

one possible organization



- **An example of organizational structure:**
 - **Hook/introduction that will make you stand out**
 - **Transition into your background of study**
 - **Related extracurricular activities**
 - **Publications or professional accomplishments**
 - **Explanations about problems in the past**
 - **Why did you choose this graduate school?**
 - **Future plans**

writing the SoP



- **Start with an outline...of the major sections.**
- **Write an Intro – Who am I? Not too much and not what they know already.**
- **History - How did you get to this point in your life? Really – big things....**
- **Professional interests – What are your interests how did they develop.**

writing the SoP



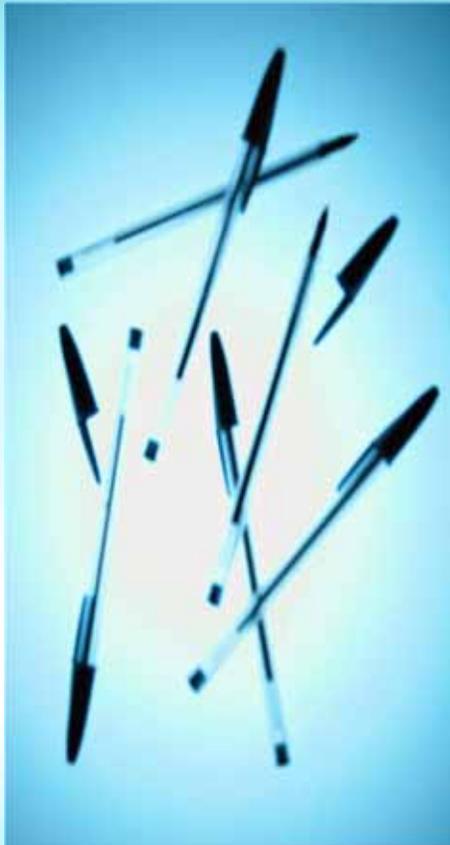
- **Research – your grounding in research; real experience and knowledge of the scientific process**
- **The University –How does that university fit with your professional interests and research experience? Specific things about the university; department, program, faculty, research projects, etc.**
- **Plans – What is it you really want to do in life?**

writing the SoP



Once you have a good outline with perhaps a sentence or two in each section, then you begin to expand each section sentence by sentence, until you have paragraph(s). Be careful of the required limits – number of words; number of pages; etc. Know those before you begin.

writing the SoP



Draft your SoP; share it with friends; re-draft it; share it again; final draft; have it polished by a native speaker - someone good in English; read it again; make it perfect; format and layout and spelling and grammar - all perfect. Is your name on it? Other need information? Submit It!

finally



So many things play a role in the admissions of a student into a university. All you can do is do your best on each and every part of the application process. The more errors or snags in your application, the lower your probability of admission – its that simple. But even if you do everything perfect you might not be admitted but DO NOT take it personally.

good luck to you



thank you!

questions?