

2nd CWU Grad CAMP Meeting: Statement of Purpose Review



Outline for today:

- Check-in about GRE, [Today's Practice Question](#)
- Writing Statement of Purpose
- Finding programs to apply to...

- Discuss personal progress of SMART goal

Recording notification

This webinar will be recorded and will be shared via the CWU website.

By continuing to the meeting you are consenting to be recorded.

Graduates Creating Applications for More Professional Experiences (Grad-CAMP) is offered by the [Central Office of Undergraduate Research](#) and [CWU Math Honors Program](#).

Resources from the Grad-CAMP will be available here, <https://www.cwu.edu/math/professional-opportunities>.

Statement of Purpose - Make yourself STAND OUT

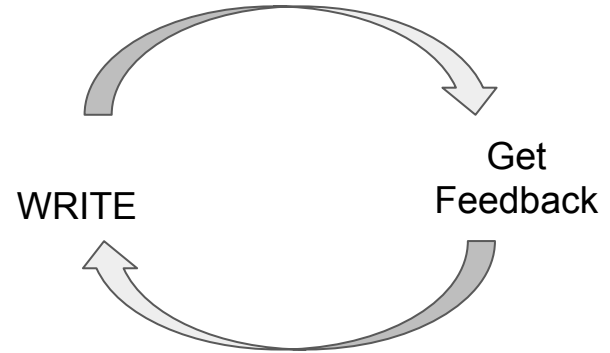
What makes you different from the other 200+ applicants?

Statement of Purpose - Make yourself STAND OUT

What makes you different from the other 200+ applicants?

The Process to stand out...

- Write something about you
- Have other people critically review it
- Write more/ edit more/ write...
- After you have a good one...
Tailor it to specific program's faculty members/ program goals



Statement of Purpose - Make yourself STAND OUT

What makes you different from the other 200+ applicants?

- Describe your future goals and how this fits in
- Describe your research or passion projects
- Describe your diverse point of view
- Describe cool hobbies that give you insight into your current work
- Describe any particularly adverse conditions you have overcome that demonstrate grit: grades, people, situations

Statement of Purpose - Make yourself STAND OUT

What makes you different from the other 200+ applicants?

What makes you stand out?

Statement of Purpose: Next Steps...

GUIDELINES FOR PEER EDITING WHEN YOU ARE THE WRITER

- Explain the purpose and audience
- Take advantage of the opportunity
- Ask when you don't understand
- Don't take it personally. Remind yourself that the comments are about your writing, not about you.
- Feel free to decline the advice

Feel free to ask your editor for clarification if you find the person's comments too vague or otherwise unclear.

If your peer editor says what you've written "looks fine" **ask about specific parts of your draft** ("Did you think the purpose was clearly stated in my introduction?").

LOOKING FOR GRAD SCHOOLS... SEVERAL APPROACHES

- **Discipline specific lists:**

- Professional Society Graduate Program Search, for example:
<http://www.ams.org/programs/students/findgradprograms/fgp-search>
- Discipline Specific Graduate Application Programs, for example:
 - Math Alliance, <https://mathalliance.org/gpg-listing/>
 - SACNAS, <https://www.sacnas.org/>

- **Look for specific Faculty you want to work with**

- Google Scholar <https://scholar.google.com>
- Your current faculty you work with here
- Example: Math Genealogy Project:
<https://genealogy.math.ndsu.nodak.edu/index.php>

- **General lists**

- CWU has a list, <http://www.cwu.edu/career/woisthe-career-information-system>
- US News and World Report:
<https://www.usnews.com/best-graduate-schools/search?program=top-mathematics-programs>
- Grad Trek, <https://gradtrek.com/>

LOOKING FOR GRAD SCHOOLS...

HOW DO I DECIDE WHICH PROGRAMS I WANT TO APPLY TO?

Things to ask NOW...

- Should I consider Master's or Ph.D. programs?
- How do I know I'm a good fit for a program?
- Are there any restrictions to where I (OR MY PARTNER) will live...
- Are there restrictions in regards to my (or MY PARTNER's) life goals?

Things to not worry about NOW ...

- Should I attend a grad school on a quarter system, or should I go to one on semesters, or does it matter?
- Are they going to pay me enough?

LOOKING FOR GRAD SCHOOLS...HOW TO KEEP THE LIST

Make a list of at least 10+ programs: a few reach, a few average, and a few for certain.

- Grad School
- Website
- Application website
- Notes:
 - Contacts/personal connections to program
 - Why you like it
- DEADLINES - applying and money

When you decide to apply, keep track of what you need to apply:

- Due dates
- Fees
- Application requirements
 - Statement requirements
 - Transcripts
 - GREs
- Letters:
 - How many letters?
 - Who is doing each the letters for you

HOW DO I DECIDE WHICH PROGRAMS I WANT TO APPLY TO?

- Talk to faculty
- Visit if you can and talk to grad students at the schools!
- Talk to the students who have been there and have advice for the whole program... what worked and didn't?
- Talk to faculty



Goal before next meeting

- ❑ Continue to edit your statement of purpose using the feedback from today:
 - ❑ Why do you want to go to take this next step?
 - ❑ How does this next step fit into your career plan?
 - ❑ What can you contribute to your next experience?
 - ❑ Do you have specific experience learning about/independently studying a given topic?
 - ❑ Do you have a personal story connected to deciding on that next step?
- ❑ Bring a copy of your CV/Resume to the next meeting. Here are some suggestions for getting started <https://www.cwu.edu/career/resume-tips>
- ❑ Start a list of programs that you are interested in applying for
- ❑ Take a full practice GRE exam