

Program Description: CWU's Primate Behavior master's program provides interdisciplinary, problem-oriented knowledge of primates. We seek applicants of varied backgrounds and welcome all qualified students to apply. Program faculty and students conduct humane, non-invasive behavioral research with nonhuman primates. During the program, students complete coursework and gain experience in [anthropology](#), [biology](#), and [psychology](#) and conduct sanctuary, zoo, and/or field research under the guidance of faculty mentors.

Not all students who apply to our program will be accepted into it. If you have questions about the application process, please ask so that we can help you submit an application that reflects your interests.

Application Requirements:

1. Online application form completed through School of Graduate Studies application portal
2. Official transcripts
3. 3 academic letters of recommendation
4. Statement of purpose

Recommendation letters: Please provide three letters of recommendation from individuals qualified to evaluate your potential for graduate study. At least one letter should be from a faculty member at your previous institution (unless you have been out of school for 3 or more years). Other appropriate recommenders might include those who supervised your research or those who supervised your work in professional settings such as zoos, museums, or laboratories.

Statement of Purpose: The statement of purpose should clearly convey your research interests and professional goals and provides us with an opportunity to assess your writing and reasoning abilities. In this statement, please address each of the following points:

1. Specifically indicate what is appealing to you about the Primate Behavior MS program and what you hope to gain from participating in the program.
2. How will your past research, academic, or professional experience contribute to your success in this program?
3. Please indicate 2-4 program faculty members you would like to work with and why you think they would be appropriate mentors for your educational goals.
4. Even the most carefully planned research project may require troubleshooting, and students may need to switch study sites, study species, or pivot their research question. Please describe a challenge you've encountered and the steps you took to generate a solution.
5. Primates today face various anthropogenic pressures and live in a variety of free-range and captive settings. What is your position on the presence and use of primates in captive settings compared to more naturalistic field settings?
6. If you applied for a graduate assistantship at Central, please describe skills you might bring to this job with respect to teaching, research, and educational outreach.