Personal Statement

The personal statement is an optional opportunity to provide context about your experiences as they relate to diversity, inclusion, and equity. We encourage all applicants to submit a personal statement of up to one page in length so that the admissions committee may get to know you better as a person. This statement can discuss your experience(s) as an individual from a traditionally underrepresented group in higher education; your perspective on issues related to diversity, inclusion, and equity; or any topics related to these themes. The personal statement can also include a description of how your experiences have affected your academic career and trajectory, your experience with higher education, your career plans, and/or your research interests.

If there is anything in your application you wish to explain further, the personal statement is a place to do this.

While admission decisions are predominantly based on an applicant’s academic performance, the personal statement provides a context for the rest of your application. This information may also be used in aggregate to report to funding agencies and in applications for funding opportunities for eligible students.

Please note that the personal statement is not required.