**Personal Statement**

The personal statement is a brief essay describing why you would make a good fit in a particular graduate program.

When writing a personal statement, there are several questions you will want to answer:
- How did you decide on this particular area of study?
- How did you decide on this particular program?
- Why do you believe you will be successful in the program to which you are applying?
- What are your short and long term goals?

**How did you decide on this particular area of study?**
- Ideally, you will want to address a single event or series of events that led to your decision to pursue a particular career
- Reflect on experiences with family, volunteering, travel, work or school to help you with this question

**How did you decide on this particular program?**
- Research the program thoroughly
- Focus on their mission statement and how it might match your skills and goals
- Consider any other attributes of the program that are appealing to you
- Do you know any graduates of the program? What have they said about the program?
- Have you been acquainted with any of the professors at the university to which you are applying? What have they said about the institution?

**Why do you believe you will be successful in the program?**
- Link your previous educational, work or volunteer experiences with transferable skills that will convince an admissions committee that you have what it takes to be successful in their program.
- Back up your skills with real life examples

**What are your short and long term goals?**
- What do you hope to accomplish in your future career?
- How will this graduate degree contribute to your long term career plans?

Make sure your personal statement is professional, well-written and free of grammatical errors. Create an eye-grabbing introduction that sets you apart from other applicants, and reiterate your high points in a concluding paragraph. Finally, we suggest you have your faculty advisor, as well as one of the professional staff at Career Services, assist you in reviewing this very important document.