

Engineering Personal Statement Worksheet

As part of the progression/admissions process, all students are will provide a brief statement that describes their engineering interest. Students will also have the opportunity to submit a second, optional statement, to describe any extenuating circumstances that have impacted their academic record.

REMEMBER:

1. **This is a SHORT statement (250 words is about 2-3 paragraphs)**
It is NOT like an academic or university admissions essay
2. **Priority: CONCISE, COMPLETE, and SPECIFIC**
*When finished with your statement (or your initial draft) review it to determine if you **fully** and **completely** answered the statement prompt (below)*
3. **Academic integrity applies**
Your words, ideas, and intentions
4. **Engineering faculty, advisors, and staff cannot review statements**
Attend one of the Writing Center workshops listed below if you want help with the writing/review process

Personal Statement (Required, 250 words)

Write a brief personal statement (250 words) that describes why you selected this program. This might include:

- Steps you have taken to learn about this area of engineering, including career, research, or focus areas that are of particular interest
- Relevant experiences (e.g. coursework, extracurricular, research, or work) that have shaped your academic and/or career goals

Extenuating circumstance/additional information (Optional, 100 words)

- If you have faced unusual or extenuating circumstances, please describe how these challenges have impacted your academic record.

STATEMENT TIPS AND GUIDELINES:

1. **Start with WHY:**
 - a. **WHY** do you want this *specific* program?
 - b. **HOW** will this program help you reach your goals?
 - c. **WHAT** specifically have you done to explore this major and affirm your academic and career interests?
2. **Avoid Clichés:**

We often hear that students became engineers out of a love for Legos. It's great if they sparked your interest (Legos are pretty fun), but it doesn't tell us much about your current capacity to be an engineer. Use your statement to tell us more about where this initial interest has taken you, instead of where it started.
3. **Be Specific:**

Are you in engineering because you want to make a difference? Help people? Be creative? These big picture goals are really important. However, make sure you tell us specifically how this program will help you achieve your goals.
4. **Attend a UW Writing Center CoE Statement Workshop**

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'Not sure where to start? Get your ideas flowing with 'free writing'

Free writing--drafting very roughly, without worrying about writing in complete sentences and without thinking of what you're writing as the *final* version--can be a great way to generate ideas for your application essay.

So jot down as many ideas as you can in response to the questions below. **Be as specific and detailed as possible**, but don't worry about the style of your writing at this stage.

Here are some questions to get you started:

1. What experiences have you had that have motivated you to pursue a degree in engineering? Think about jobs, internships, involvement with student orgs, volunteering, course work, any other activities. Write down as many as you can.
2. What other kinds of experiences have shaped your interest in engineering? Consider your background and upbringing, your values, your abilities and talents.
3. From the experiences you listed in the previous two questions, what *specific moments* stand out most? Jot down stories you could tell about specific things you did or learned or discovered and *how* they translate to engineering.
4. What have you done to educate yourself about the specific field of engineering you are interested in? Think about classes, student organizations, family connections or shadowing experiences, books you've read, field trips.
5. What *specific moments* stand out as you remember the experiences you just wrote about? Jot down stories you could tell about specific events or experiences and the skills, values, perspective, or knowledge you gained through them.
6. What specific program(s) within the engineering school are you interested in? If you are interested in more than one program, what do these programs have in common or not? Include specific details to show you've done your homework on the engineering school.
7. What are your goals in pursuing an engineering degree? Short-term goals? Long-term career goals?