Personal and Research Statement Guidelines
Personal Financial Planning Ph.D. Program
Kansas State University

Written personal and research statements are required by all applicants to the Personal Financial Planning Ph.D. program. Below are guidelines for these writing samples. Submissions should be prepared to upload as one file, while clearly distinguishing the separate writing prompts within the document.

Format

- Maximum of 2 pages in length *per statement*
- 1-inch margins
- Times New Roman 12-point font
- 1.5 line spacing.

Instructions for 2-page Personal Statement

Please address the following:

1. Why do you want to obtain a Ph.D.?
    a. What do you want to do with a Ph.D.? How will you utilize it?
    b. Why is a Ph.D. needed?
    c. Why do you want to obtain a Ph.D. in Personal Financial Planning from K-State?
2. What do you consider to be strengths that will help you become an outstanding researcher and educator? Elaborate on any training, skills, or experiences that will help you succeed in the doctoral program.
3. What do you consider to be the area(s) that will need most attention during your training?

Instructions for 2-page Research Statement

Please address the following:

1. In what ways does research make you excited?
2. How have you been exposed to research previously?
3. Identify two topics in the personal financial planning field that warrant research. Briefly describe how research on these topics is important and could make a difference in peoples' lives and/or the work of practitioners. Discuss how achieving a Ph.D. will help you facilitate research on these topics.

Resources provided on page 2.

Personal Statement Resources:

Columbia University Center for Career Education. (n.d.*) How to write a personal statement for a PhD program application.* *https://www.careereducation.columbia.edu/resources/how-write-personal-statement-phd-program-application*

Kansas State University. (n.d.). *Graduate student resources.* Career Center. https://www.k-state.edu/careercenter/students/connect/gradstudents/

Purdue Online Writing Lab. (n.d.). *Writing the personal statement.* *https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/job_search_writing/preparing_an_application/writing_the_personal_statement/index.html*

Research Statement Resources:

Kansas State University. (n.d.). *Graduate student resources.* Career Center. https://www.k-state.edu/careercenter/students/connect/gradstudents/

Purdue Online Writing Lab. (n.d.). *Graduate School Applications: Writing a Research Statement.* *https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/graduate_school_applications/writing_a_research_statement.html*