



Letter/Statement of Intent

Your letter or statement of intent is an intellectual autobiography that conveys the continuum of experiences and events in your academic life, which have led you to desire an academic graduate education. It informs the reviewers of your personal goals and capabilities. You are not held accountable to this statement. We recognize that your goals will evolve through graduate studies.

Before you write:

- Review the [Okanagan School of Education website](#) for program specifics and faculty research and teaching interests, and provide the names of two to three faculty members with whom you may want to study with
 - *MA students are expected to approach a supervisor prior to starting their application*
- Consider your academic and/or professional achievements
- Consider what you want to do academically and/or professionally

Format

- Approximately half page to 1 page
- Single-spaced
- 12-point font

Organization

Opening

State the program you are applying to, and provide in a general sense, why you are applying. Think of this as your “elevator pitch.”

Body: Your Qualifications, Background & Interest(s)

Describe:

- Your educational background (e.g. Undergraduate and/or graduate studies in general, your major, and any specialization, in specific terms).
- Experiences that have served as a foundation for your future graduate work.
- Professional and academic skills and experience that may contribute to your success in the program.



Answer the following questions:

- How your interest in the field developed
- How you planned academically for your goal
- Why you wish to attend this graduate program
- How the graduate curriculum matches your short and long term academic and career goals.
- Why you believe you possess the experience and skills to be admitted to the program.

Tips for Writing Your Letter

- Show evidence of your investigation of our program, our faculty and their research, and our areas of study
- Indicate how your academic, professional and intellectual interests form a match with the research interests of one or more faculty in the program
- Be direct and straightforward
- Use active voice
- Emphasize strengths
- Have someone review your letter