

Statement of Purpose

At the top of the *Statement of Purpose* document (before actually beginning the text of your statement), please write a short statement indicating your intentions with regard to full-time or part-time study, and (only if full-time) your interest in being considered for assistantships. Expressions of interest in an assistantship do not guarantee that one will be offered – however, your expression of interest will alert the committee, and it is also expected that you will file an appropriate assistantship application (see below).

In addition to the expression of interest in a full-time assistantship (you will not be able to work another job) as mentioned in the first paragraph of this document, you will need to submit the assistantship application available on our Ph.D. Curriculum & Instruction program home page at <http://louisville.edu/education/degrees/tl-doctoral-degree.html>

by following the links below (additional information on assistantships is also available there):

“*Financial Aid*” (in right hand menu bar)

“*Graduate Assistantships*” (near the bottom)

“*GA Application Form*” (near the bottom)

EXAMPLE PARAGRAPH 1

If admitted, I intend to pursue the Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction on a full-time basis, and I would be (or would NOT be – choose whichever is appropriate for your situation) interested in being considered for a Graduate Assistantship (GA). I will submit a GA application form immediately upon hearing of admission to this program.

EXAMPLE PARAGRAPH 2

If admitted, I intend to pursue the Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction on a part-time basis (at least initially) and thus would not be eligible for a Graduate Assistantship.

After this initial paragraph, begin the text of your ***Statement of Purpose*** (see below for guidance)

Prepare a ***Statement of Purpose*** that describes:

- (1) Your detailed rationale for pursuing a Ph.D. in Curriculum & Instruction at the University of Louisville, &
- (2) Your research interest(s).

Features of a strong ***Statement of Purpose*** include (*see exemplar linked from the homepage for an example*):

- Appropriate demonstration of sophistication in written communication (e.g. grammar, connecting sentences, one main idea per paragraph, seamlessly coherent and logically organized) commensurate with a doctoral level performance;
- Building a coherent argument for doctoral study, including how this career direction builds on your prior professional work as well as your career aspirations. Grounding your argument with select ideas from others in the field of your study demonstrates coherence with the field as well as within your own career path;
- Describing a focus on some particular area(s) of interest, but not making these so specific or exclusive as to make you appear too narrow or not open to ideas.

Discuss your interest in doctoral study, indicating how your personal and professional goals, professional experiences, and commitment to education, learning, and research are congruent with a doctoral program in curriculum and instruction. More specifically, relate your goals to a particular concentration(s). Include a clear statement about your research interest(s) and goals, and describe how the doctoral program will help you achieve those goals.

Members of the admission committee will expect a statement of **approximately 1,500 words**, keeping in mind that the ***Statement of Purpose*** also serves as a sample of your writing abilities and skills which the admissions committee will review in this light.