

What's a Good Statement of Objectives?

A statement of objectives is where you tell the admissions committee **why you're interested in the particular graduate program, the kind of work you plan on doing when you're there, and why you in particular should be doing that work.** The statement should be narrowly focused on convincing the intended reader that you have a serious and well-considered purpose in applying to that program. A compelling statement will convince the reader that you are the kind of student likely to thrive in the program to which you are admitted and who would contribute to (and not merely benefit from) the academic community.

For the PhD program, the statement of objectives will be focused on your research skills and interests. It is recommended to show that your interests converge closely with the current research of faculty who work in the program to which you are applying

It's important to note that **a statement of objectives is not the same thing as a personal statement.** What's the difference? Well, a graduate school statement of objectives is more closely focused on your academic/professional qualities, accomplishments, and goals, while a personal statement is more concerned with you as an overall person. **Personal statements allow for you to be more *personal*.** There's definitely some overlap in that both will expect you to address your goals and interests in the field, but a statement of objectives generally has a slightly tighter focus.

There is no recommended number of pages required for the statement, or format/fonts, however we recommend that the statement is legible and formatted in a pleasant manner, and that the statement conveys the message you may want your readers (the admission committees) to receive.