

Guidelines for Applicants Writing the Personal Statement

West Virginia University School of Nursing

Applicants must submit a personal statement that discusses the following:

- How graduate education will promote professional growth and help in transitioning into the role of advanced practice nursing if applicable. Include the program and track for which you are applying.
- Preparation for graduate work: how has your background and work experience influenced and shaped your goals for the future and prepared you for graduate study?
- Personal academic strengths and weaknesses that may affect program success. How have you been successful in the past? Include stress and time management strategies.
- Uniqueness as an individual and how you may add to the diversity of the program.
- For DNP applicants describe the practice area of interest (problem, specific population, or practice/system change would like to study).
- Goal statement(s) to include what kind of work/position you will seek after graduation
- The personal statement is limited to not more than three double spaced pages, using a legible 12 font. Grammar, punctuation, organization, and creativity will be evaluated in the scoring. Include an introduction and conclusion.

Tips for writing the personal statement:

- It is absolutely imperative that you follow these guidelines and that you cover each topic area. Be clear, concise, and cogent.
- Make certain that the statement is grammatically and technically correct. There should be no spelling errors.
- Do not rush. Write drafts, edit, and have someone else read the statement prior to finalizing.