

Statement of purpose worksheet (or “brag sheet”)

1. I am applying to the _____ (MA or PhD) program in _____ in order to pursue graduate training and research in the field of _____, with a focus on _____. My ultimate goal is to _____.

2. List experiences (coursework, research, volunteering, work, publications—whatever is applicable) that prepare you for your chosen graduate program.

3. What specific problems/issues/questions do you hope to tackle in your graduate studies? (These can be tentative, and don’t have to be super specific—but the more concrete and specific the better).

4. What about this specific graduate program (a particular specialty/topic, faculty members, research facilities, other programs) appeals to you?

5. What specific skills, interests, or abilities make you a perfect fit for that program? (i.e. what will you do for them)?

6. What are your professional goals? What bigger social/societal/cultural contribution do you hope to make (longer term) with your work/research?