

## **Guidelines for writing the personal statement**

Applicants must submit a personal statement describing their professional background, career objectives, and how their experience has influenced and shaped their goals for the future. Discuss how graduate education will promote professional growth and help in transitioning into the role of advanced practice nursing. The personal statement is limited to two type-written, double spaced pages, using a legible 12 font.

A personal statement is designed to communicate:

- Writing abilities-grammar, punctuation, organization, creativity
- Connections between your past education/experiences and future goals
- Your philosophy of the field and why you are pursuing graduate education
- What makes you unique and how you can add to the diversity of the program

Tips for writing the personal statement:

- Include an introduction, conclusion, and paragraphs with transitions
- Make sure the statement is grammatically and technically correct. There should be no spelling errors.
- Each paragraph must include a topic sentence that expresses the main idea, and developing sentences supporting the topic sentence and the meaning of the paragraph.
- Do not rush. Write drafts, edit, and have someone else read the statement prior to finalizing.