

**West Virginia University School of Nursing
Guidelines for Applicants Writing the Personal Statement
(DNP Programs)**

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 (Family or Pediatric Nurse Practitioner or Nurse Anesthesia) to which you are applying and discuss why you are pursuing the DNP degree.
- Preparation for graduate work. How has your background and experience influenced and shaped your goals for the future and prepared you for graduate study?
- Academic strengths and weaknesses that may affect program success.
- Unique qualities you possess and how you can add to the diversity of the program.
- DNP Project idea-a problem, specific population, or practice/system change to be considered for a DNP Project proposal
- Goal statement to include what kind of work or position you will seek after graduation

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.
- 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.
- 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.