2016 Upper Division Admission
Personal Statements and Guidelines

Our Personal Statements (essays) are your opportunity to help us understand more about you, who you are, and what you hope to accomplish as part of our School of Nursing and in your career. They are your best opportunity to fully describe who you are and why you are uniquely qualified for our nursing program.

Directions

- There are four required essays for all applicants, an optional essay, and one reapplication essay required for students who have previously applied via the Upper Division process.
- The optional essay is an additional opportunity for you to distinguish yourself and enhance your application. Although it is optional to complete, think carefully before you pass on this invitation to help the committee understand why you are a good fit for the School of Nursing.
- Each response is limited to 1,000 characters. It is your responsibility to limit your responses to the 1,000 characters, including spaces and punctuation, per prompt. Don’t go over. One thousand characters is approximately 200 words.
- Compose your statements in a word-processing program to take advantage of spelling and grammar tools, as well as character/word counters.
- Once you are satisfied with your essays, save them and paste them into the space provided on the online application. Proofread once more to make sure no odd characters or line breaks have appeared.
- You must submit your statements at the same time as you complete your online nursing application.
- If you are reapplying to our nursing program, your responses should be different from those previously submitted. The admissions committee will review your prior application and statements.

Tips and Suggestions

- As you write, think about the admission committee members who will be reading your statements. What do you want them to know and understand about you and your aspirations in nursing?
- We cannot interview you so the statements are your opportunity to help us get a sense of you, learn what matters to you, and understand how you are different from other applicants.
- Carefully read each question and all the questions within each question. Then respond specifically to the question(s) being asked.
- Use the statements to highlight positive aspects about yourself that are not apparent elsewhere in your application. It’s OK to expand and build on the activities you include in your Activities Table, but do not just repeat those activities and accomplishments making your statements read like your activity list in paragraph form.
- Don’t know what to write for the optional essay? Are there any gaps or low points in your academic record? Have you overcome unusual obstacles or hardships? If yes, help us understand what happened and how you dealt with it. If all else fails, use this essay to tell us what else we need to know to make the best admission decision possible.

Personal Statement Prompts

1. We are interested in how you selected nursing as your academic and career path. Reflect on things you have done or experienced that have helped you make an informed decision to pursue nursing.
2. What strengths or skills have you developed that will enable you to perform as a leader in nursing? How did you develop them and why do you think they are relevant to nursing?
3. Tell us about a time you persevered in the face of failure or significant challenges. What problem-solving skills or personal attributes did you use to get through the situation? What did you learn about yourself from the experience?
4. Describe an experience you have had with someone from a different background (e.g., racial, ethnic, cultural, religious, socio-economic class, sexual orientation, age, dis/ability) that impacted you either positively or negatively. What happened and what did you learn from the experience?
5. Please include anything else about yourself that is not found elsewhere in your application that you feel would be important for us to consider. (optional)

Reapplication Essay: Respond to this prompt only if you have applied for Upper Division Admission to the School of Nursing in the past. If you applied for Freshman Direct Admission previously, please do not complete this essay.

1. Describe what you have done to strengthen your nursing application since your last application. Include relevant academic, volunteer, employment, and personal experiences.

Updated 11.03.15