

How important is the Statement of Purpose?

Your Statement of Purpose is a critical piece of your graduate school application. In CIT, the statement of purpose is used to match your professional and graduate study interests with those of the graduate faculty. It is also an opportunity to demonstrate your writing skills - both organization of thought and appropriate style and grammar. Here are a few tips:

- **Be unique.** Talk about interesting and relevant experience. One way to do this is to talk about a subject in your field about which you are passionate.
- **Write with skill.** The Statement of Purpose may be the only writing sample you provide, so editing and organization are imperative. Be sure that you proofread your statement and have others, such as professors, teaching assistants, advisors, and peers read it. Ask for constructive feedback as well.
- **Be clear and specific about your experiences.** Instead of providing broad generalizations such as “my research internship provided valuable experience,” write, “By transcribing interview protocols and coding the data, I gained a deeper understanding of how teenage mothers make attributions.”
- **State specific professional goals.** Information technology is a very broad discipline. Narrow down your interests to specific IT areas of specialization. The faculty are looking for students that will complement their own research and teaching interests. (Note, Faculty profiles can be viewed in the Graduate Faculty menu item.)
- **Give yourself enough time** to write the Statement of Purpose, to get feedback from a variety of people, and to make the necessary revisions.
- **Be yourself;** avoid using too much jargon and too many big words that aren't a part of your day-to-day vocabulary.