Graduate Programs at California State University Channel Islands

Statement of Purpose Instructions

Dear Applicant:

These instructions are designed to save you valuable time by providing a single set of questions. Please follow the steps below in your own Microsoft Word document:

1. To ensure that you do not accidentally lose any information, please save your Microsoft Word Document to your computer first and avoid completing the Statement of Purpose online within your browser.

2. Complete the Statement of Purpose offline and save a final version (as pdf) of the file to your computer.

3. Once completed, please attach and upload to your online application in the Cal State Apply application portal. **DO NOT SEND TO THE GRADUATE PROGRAM DEPARTMENT.**

Helpful tips to consider when completing your statement:

- **Name and Title:** help us know who is telling us the professional story, by putting your name on the top right corner & center title "Statement of Purpose - [Insert Program Name]".
- **Research:** before you apply inform yourself, share specific examples/experiences to show your understanding of the Graduate Program at CSUCI.
- **Academic History:** Explain any patterns in academic history (consistent trouble with certain types of courses, gaps in enrollment, or grade fluctuations).
- **Job History:** Explain common "red flags" such as gap in work or "job hopping" in your job history
- **Why Graduate School:** Tell a coherent story and clarify why graduate school is the natural next step.
- **Additional Information:** Is there anything you wish for us to know that is not reflected in the other application materials.
- Your statement should address the questions asked; **proofread** your essay, be clear and concise, your response should flow smoothly and show cohesion.

Statement Prompt to Get Started 600 single-spaced words please explain:

1. What informs/inspires your decision to pursue the graduate program at CSUCI?
2. What are your career goals and objectives?
3. How your background combined with the theory you hope to receive will help you achieve them?

Revised – 02/02/2022