

Statement of Purpose Prompt

MASTER OF EDUCATION (Ed.M.) APPLICANTS

In your statement, please discuss:

1. **Your background:** What professional, academic, or personal experiences motivate you and demonstrate your commitment to work in the field of education and related fields?
2. **Your objectives for graduate study:** What are your professional goals? How will graduate study in education contribute to accomplishing these goals?
3. **Your fit:** How will enrollment in your selected program help you achieve your goals? Be specific in terms of the knowledge, skills, and experiences you intend to pursue at HGSE and how they will complement and build on experiences you already have.

As a reminder, prior direct experience in an education setting is not a requirement for admission to HGSE. However, competitive candidates will be able to articulate why they're pursuing a master's degree in education and how this pursuit is related to their past experience and future goals. In addition, "education" and "education-related" are broadly defined at HGSE and encompass all fields, roles, and contexts covered by the Ed.M. Programs and Concentrations we offer.

(Word limit = 1000)

Additional Required Question

MASTER OF EDUCATION (Ed.M.) APPLICANTS ONLY

Please respond to the following prompt:

At HGSE, engaging with a range of views—including those with which you may strongly disagree—is essential. Think of an important belief or value you hold. Describe a situation when someone said or did something that conflicted with that value or belief. What did the situation teach you about yourself, others, and having constructive conversations? How might those lessons translate to education issues you care about or to your HGSE experience?

(250-word limit)

Statement of Purpose Tips and FAQ

WHAT MAKES A STRONG STATEMENT OF PURPOSE?

The Statement of Purpose is your opportunity to show the admissions committee your commitment to education and to pursuing graduate study at HGSE. You are encouraged to share parts of your personal story, especially those that relate to your motivation to work in education and that demonstrate your experiences in the field.

A strong Statement of Purpose will clearly show your commitment to making a positive impact in the field of education. It should also clarify how HGSE and your chosen program directly align with your personal and professional goals and what you plan to do with the education and tools you acquire during your time here.

You are strongly encouraged to review the available information about our [degrees and programs](#) prior to writing your Statement of Purpose to ensure your goals and objectives align with your selected program.

DO I NEED TO CITE SOURCES IN MY STATEMENT OF PURPOSE?

If you are using quotes or referring to work done by another individual, you should cite your sources. We do not have a preferred citation format, nor will a citation count towards the word limit.

Please remember that your Statement of Purpose should focus on your experience and goals for graduate study. Applicants are not advised to rely too heavily on the ideas or work of other individuals.

DO I NEED TO REFER TO SPECIFIC FACULTY MEMBERS OR COURSES IN MY STATEMENT OF PURPOSE?

You are not required to refer to specific faculty members or courses in your Statement of Purpose, but you are welcome to if you feel there is a faculty member whose work aligns with your goals for graduate study or courses you can connect to your stated interests.

IF I AM APPLYING TO MULTIPLE GRADUATE PROGRAMS, CAN I USE THE SAME STATEMENT OF PURPOSE FOR ALL APPLICATIONS?

You may decide how to approach your Statement of Purpose, but the strongest statements are those that are specific to HGSE. The Admissions Committee uses the Statement of Purpose not only to evaluate writing skills but also to understand your fit with HGSE and

your chosen program. You are encouraged to review the available information about our [degree programs](#) and make clear connections between your interests and goals and the resources available at HGSE.

CAN I USE CHATGPT OR OTHER GENERATIVE AI TO ASSIST WITH THE WRITING OF MY STATEMENT OF PURPOSE?

The use of generative artificial intelligence or machine learning software is permitted only for assisting with edits and/or identifying grammatical errors. The content of your statement must be your own.

As a general rule, wherever it would be inappropriate to ask a human contributor to do work for you, it is equally inappropriate for you to prompt an AI tool to do work for you.