

UCI California Teach Science-Math Initiative
Biological Science Administration, Suite 137
Irvine CA 92697-5506
949-824-0689
949-824-0694 FAX
calteach@uci.edu
<http://www.gse.uci.edu/calteach/>

Statement of Purpose

As you begin to explore various Graduate Schools or a Teaching Credential Programs, you will be expected to write a Statement of Purpose (SOP). The SOP is seen as one of the most important aspects of one's application.

BEFORE YOU WRITE YOUR SOP:

- Research your programs of interest
- Familiarize yourself with the program's emphasis and coursework
- Identify at least 2-3 readers who will provide you with constructive feedback
- Create a realistic timeline, taking into account time for editing and re-writes

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND:

- Show your writing skills and style
- Do **NOT** use negative phrases or words
- Demonstrate everything by example
- Outline your goals and aspirations
- Where is the source of your passions
- What fuels your commitment
- Your grammar has to be perfect and your style is important.
- Work on a paragraph at a time, and re-visit every few days.
- Have multiple people proofread your essay.

WRITING YOUR SOP:

Although there is no set way of writing your SOP, the following are SUGGESTED topics that you cover.

- Your motivation for applying to the program
- Relevant experiences and academic coursework that have prepared you for the program
- Characteristics and strengths that make you well-suited for program
- Academic plan for graduate study
- Future career objectives
- Extenuating circumstances that may have resulted in less than ideal academic credentials
- How an influential teacher or other individual helped you develop intellectually
- What makes you passionate about wanting to teach
- An experience or aspiration that suggests why you would become a successful teacher and/or leader among teachers

These suggestions are provided to stimulate reflection. Depth and quality of writing are more important than coverage of all items on the list.

For UCI Teaching Credential and MAT programs, you should follow these formatting guidelines:

- Length should be 1 - 2 pages
- Single space
- 1" margins
- 12 point font

EDITING YOUR SOP:

- Use spellcheck
- Contact a Cal Teach Advisor
- Give your reader(s) ample time to provide you with feedback

ADDITIONAL HELP AND RESOURCES:

<http://career.berkeley.edu/Article/041112b-so.stm>

<http://career.berkeley.edu/Article/041119b-so.stm>

<http://www.princetonreview.com/grad/apply/articles/application/purpose.asp>

<http://ual.stanford.edu/pdf/WritingStatementofPurpose.pdf>

<http://career.berkeley.edu/Grad/GradStatement.stm>

Graduate Education & 21st Century America

Social Sciences 187

This is a two unit class for sophomores and above with the potential to attend graduate and professional school. This course provides "how to" information, as well as insight into what graduate study is and why it is important to the individual and to society. *This class is offered in the fall and spring quarters.*

J. Adam Maestas

Student Services II, Suite 2100

(949) 824-7162 / jamaesta@uci.edu

www.saas.uci.edu/Files/2007FallQuarterSyllabus.doc