



**CALIFORNIA  
SOUTHERN**  
UNIVERSITY

## **Personal Statement Guidelines**

The Personal Statement is an important part of the application process and one that most applicants enjoy. It gives you a chance to reflect upon your motivations for pursuing a graduate degree and helps you—and the university—ensure that the program you are applying for is a good fit and that you are positioned for success.

Here are the guidelines for the Personal Statement:

### **Format and Length**

The Personal Statement should be one to two pages in length, double-spaced, using Times New Roman, 12-point font.

### **Topic to be Addressed**

Please describe your motivation for pursuing your graduate degree, and discuss how your background, education, professional experience and computer literacy have prepared you for success as an engaged, independent learner at California Southern University.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

Your Personal Statement will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Your focus on the topic and responsiveness to the task;
- The organization, development and persuasiveness of your argument; and
- Your command of the language and use of appropriate and effective syntax.

### **Additional Considerations**

The university encourages you to read and follow the requirements closely and address the topic thoroughly and sincerely. Be sure to write in an essay format—not, for example, as a letter or memorandum—and proofread your work carefully.