

Composing Your Statement of Purpose

Your statement of purpose is perhaps the most important document you will write for review by the RTC Graduate Committee. Your statement will give the Graduate Program Committee a way to assess your fit with the program. In your statement, you should clearly convey:

1. Your specific interest in the program and your preparation for it.
2. How you organize your thinking and how well you can express yourself.

The following questions may help you to focus your statement. They should be used to help you demonstrate the two criteria above, and not answered lockstep.

- What have you done that brings you to consider a graduate degree in RTC?
- What are we doing that is of interest to you?
- How can our program help you to pursue your professional goals?
- What do you want to be doing in five years, and how can we help you get there?

Before beginning to write your statement, make sure the program is organized to help you accomplish what you want to accomplish by doing the following:

- Read our program materials to understand the kind of projects faculty and students typically undertake.
- Carefully consider course offerings and areas of specialization in the department.

If there is anything unusual or unique about your transcript or background that might need explanation or interpretation, you might want to address this in your statement of purpose.

If you have additional questions about the writing sample, you may contact Graduate Program Director Elizabeth Flynn.