Personal statement writing instructions
Ph.D. in child psychology

Your statement must be written in normal size font (12 point), double-spaced, with 1-inch margins, and must not exceed 3 pages. It should be written in narrative style, and should minimally include the following points:

• how you became interested in psychology and from whom you received encouragement to continue your work in psychology;

• the aspects or specific problems in your area of specialization that interest you most at this point, including fit with ICD faculty members’ research interests (you must list at least one name of a faculty member with whom you would like to work);

• a brief description of any participation in research, applied psychology, or employment that might be relevant to your application;

• the specific factors that led you to apply to the University of Minnesota;

• an acknowledgement of your outstanding strengths and weaknesses (including specific skills, special talents or aptitude that you think will contribute to your success as a graduate student in child psychology); and

• the kinds of psychological work you see yourself doing seven or eight years after you get your degree.