



Personal statement prompts

Ph.D. in developmental psychology

Your personal statement should be a concise, well-written statement about your academic and research background, your career goals, and how this graduate program will help you meet your career and educational objectives. Your statement should be written in 12-point font, 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 did you become interested in developmental psychology?
- What was one of the most influential experiences in your academic career that led you to pursue a graduate degree?
- Describe your prior experiences with research, applied contexts, or public policy and how you believe they have prepared you for a research-oriented graduate program in developmental psychology.
- What specific topic(s) in developmental psychology do you hope to research as a graduate student?
- Please identify one or two faculty members at ICD who you would intend to serve as your primary mentor, and explain why. This should be the person(s) whose research questions or methods best support your interests in developmental science.
- In our program, it is possible to study with and learn from multiple faculty members. If relevant in your case, describe how your research interests and training might be met by combining the expertise of your primary mentor and other faculty members, who could serve as a co-advisor.