



UCSB Graduate Division Office of Diversity, Recruitment, and Retention RESOURCES TO HELP YOU WRITE YOUR STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Digital Resources

UCSB Graduate Division: Graduate Academic Preparation & Admission

Advice for prospective students: <http://www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/prospectivestudents>

Coversheets for SOP and letters of recommendation: <http://www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/admissions/forms>

UCSB Career Center, Bldg 599

Be sure to visit the Career Center in person to peruse the graduate and professional school library.

HOURS: 8:30-11:45 am & 1:00-4:30 pm; Phone: 805-893-4411

Tips for Writing the SOP:

http://career.ucsb.edu/students/grad_school_options/statement_of_purpose.html

UCSB English Department

<http://www.english.ucsb.edu/undergrad/aftermajor/statement-of-purpose.asp>

Purdue OWL

Purdue Online Writing Lab is an exceptional resource for developing academic and professional writing skills, and offers free printable handouts covering all phases of the writing process, from outlining and research to grammar and style. Noteworthy subject headings from the OWL index include: The Writing Process; Professional, Technical, and Scientific Writing; Research and Citation; Writing in the Social Sciences. You can also find clearly organized guidelines to MLA and APA style on the OWL: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu>

Statement of Purpose.Com

A commercial but nonetheless excellent site that includes clear and effective writing advice, sample essays, and even a blog for folks working on the SOP. <http://www.statementofpurpose.com/index.html>

Ten Tips for Better Writing

Solid and succinct advice, boiled down to ten key points, from commercial site Accepted.Com.

<http://www.accepted.com/grad/tenwritingtips.aspx>

Chronicle of Higher Education

THE professional weekly newspaper of academia features in-depth news about people, events and trends in higher education. The free-access Career portion of the site (<http://chronicle.com/jobs>) is full of invaluable information for job seekers. In addition to regularly updated job listings that can be sorted by discipline, institution, or region, the site includes helpful articles on strategizing the academic job search, applying for post-docs, and even advice on how to pursue non-academic positions. Not to be missed is the regular weekly column by Ms. Mentor. It is never too early to start visiting these pages. The main site requires a subscription, but is available through any computer that is connected to the UCSB server: <http://chronicle.com>

Two Essential Books

Getting What You Came For: The Smart Student's Guide to Earning an M.A. or a Ph.D., by **Robert Peters.** (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1997). A **must-have** handbook for graduate students in all disciplines. Chapters include savvy information on evaluating institutions, writing the SOP, formulating your research design, writing and defending the dissertation.

Graduate Admissions Essays: Write Your Way into the Graduate School of Your Choice, by **Donald Asher** (Ten Speed Press, 2000). Includes chapters on method and structure and well as a wealth of sample essays. Highly recommended.

Other Titles to Explore

- Lifting a Ton of Feathers: A Woman's Guide to Surviving in the Academic World by Paula J. Caplan
- The Chicago Guide to Your Academic Career: A Portable Mentor for Scholars from Graduate School Through Tenure by John A. Goldsmith
- Advice for New Faculty Members by Robert Boice
- Professors As Writers by Robert Boice
- What the Best College Teachers Do by Ken Bain