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

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

- 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