

Brainstorming Ideas for Personal Statements

What degree are you pursuing?

- Name the specific degree: Associate in Arts Degree, Associate Degree in Applied Arts and Science, Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, etc.
- Name the specific area of interest or specialty if you know it.

What is your major field of study?

- Name your major area of interest (example: education).
- Name the areas you are considering if you are undecided.

Why did you choose this major? What contribution will you make to this field of study?

- What events in your life directed you to your choice of this academic major?
- What education or work experiences have helped confirm this choice?
- In what ways will you add to this field of study and to the profession?

Describe your career goals.

- Those would be specific goals within your chosen major. If you have selected education, you might specify that you would like to work in elementary education, especially in the primary grades, K-3.
- These goals can also include any areas of specialty you are interested in pursuing.
- Describe the ideal job for you. You can include the type of company you are hoping will employ you (size, location, etc.).

What make you a good candidate for success in your chosen field?

- Include past educational experiences that show success in this area. Example: you are a biology major and you have earned an A in bio 101, Bio 120, Bio 210, etc.
- Include work experience or volunteer experience where you have proven success.
- Include any projects or internships that relate to your field.

By what date do you hope/plan to complete your degree?

- Make a reasonable guess when you plan to complete your degree.
- Be sure to explain any periods of interruption, or an unreasonable length of time for completion of the degree.

What awards/honors/distinctions have you received?

- You may include high school awards/honors if you are not too many years from your high school experience.
- List scholastic achievements: honor roll quarters, President's List, Dean's List, Honor's program.
- List awards or distinctions: student of the quarter, selection for the UNO student leadership conference.

Describe the community activities in which you have participated.

- List events that show your concern to give back to the community. This can include food drive, blood drive, coaching for sports, Habitat for Humanity, book drive, care taking, or volunteering your help for community events.

Describe your community volunteer experiences.

- This list is similar to community activities, but it may also include volunteering in local schools, hospitals, senior centers, food banks, libraries or park programs.

List your school offices/activities/clubs.

- ASB offices including representative to the ASB senate from a specific club, club membership (Trio Club), and activities where you have volunteered to help i.e. career fair, stress-free zone). Each quarter there are many opportunities to get involved. If you haven't volunteered for anything yet, get started now.
- Sports and clubs.

In what ways will this scholarship assist you in continuing your education and meet your career goals?

- This statement should include a summary of the budget workshop outlining the costs of the college you are attending, and the resources you have to meet those expenses.
- This statement needs to address your family's financial situation.
- Include your personal contribution to the resources you have available.
- State how this scholarship will help you meet your educational goals.

Tell the committee something special/unique about yourself.

- Spend some time reflecting on your personal qualities. Why should you be "the chosen one" for this scholarship? Consider discussing this topic with others (faculty member who knows you well, an advisor, mentor, or close friend).
- You must be honest, but you must also present your best side.