



On a separate sheet of paper, please provide a brief statement of about 250 words addressing your purpose for enrolling in graduate studies at Lourdes University as illustrated by three major benefits you hope to gain from the experience. Your essay should be typed, double-spaced, and submitted with your application for admission.

It will be helpful to the admissions committee if you use the “five paragraph essay” format for your Statement of Purpose. Using this approach, three major and related ideas are developed, with introducing and concluding paragraphs in addition to smooth transitions. Within the paragraphs, aim for good sentence structure, grammar, spelling and punctuation. You should also attempt to demonstrate an interesting and academic writing style reflective of professional-quality communication.

Lourdes University espouses the liberal arts and Franciscan traditions; good writing skills are important and expected of incoming graduate students. However, we understand that many adult students have been away from the academic environment for a number of years. Please be aware that the admissions committee primarily uses the essay to gauge writing competency and to advise new students appropriately. It is only one part of the applicant screening process.

Essays should follow the example presented by these instructions using the APA-approved Times New Roman (12 point) font. All margins should be set to 1” and paragraph first lines should be indented. In this instance, the use of a first-person voice (I, me, mine) is appropriate given that it is your own statement of purpose.

The following resources may be helpful if you are unfamiliar with this format:

- www.studygs.net/fiveparag.htm
- www.gc.maricopa.edu/English/essay/
- grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/five_par.htm