

Guidelines for Statements of Purpose, University of Kentucky Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences Graduate Program (Academic Year 2021-2022)

Thank you for your interest in graduate studies at the University of Kentucky. Our graduate committee strives to: (1) evaluate students using a holistic, equity-based approach, (2) provide the opportunity for a systematic, unbiased review of all applicants, and most importantly, (3) identify strong matches between our program and interested students who will be successful in graduate studies in the earth and environmental sciences. A well-written personal statement is an important component of the application – these documents provide the graduate committee with considerable insight on your potential fit as a graduate student in our department.

Please address the following points in your letter.

1. Why do you want to pursue graduate studies in earth and environmental sciences? What motivates you? What are your career aspirations?
2. Describe your strengths and weaknesses as a student and a geoscientist.
3. What personal or professional experiences have prepared you to succeed in graduate school?
4. Describe a challenging experience that you faced as an undergraduate. How did you overcome this challenge? What steps did you take to achieve success?

You may also wish to address any gaps or issues with your academic transcripts – please feel welcome to do so in your statement, too.

Please upload your statement directly to our online application system. If you have questions or experience problems, please contact:

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