



PhD Program Admissions Essay Instructions

The essays are a vital component of your application. They will be used to evaluate your writing skills as well as your ability to articulate your understanding of graduate studies in human sexuality. These essays will also provide the admissions committee with a clear picture of who you are, why you have chosen to pursue a PhD in human sexuality, and your research experience and interests.

Please use the following outline to compose your essay, which should be a **maximum of six double-spaced pages**.

Professional Goals and Interests Statement (3-4 pages)

Your professional goals should focus on your specific interests and career objectives. This essay should both demonstrate your ability to write at a graduate school level and persuasively articulate the ways in which you would be a positive addition to our student body and to the field more broadly as a sexuality educator, counselor, therapist, advocate, professor, and/or researcher. As you articulate those larger goals and qualities, be sure to address the ways in which Widener is a good fit for you and your career goals.

In your professional goals and interests statement, please address:

1. Describe your career aspirations within the field of human sexuality.
2. Discuss your choice of the sex education or the sex therapy track.
3. Why you think the Widener University Human Sexuality Studies graduate program (particularly in the track and degree program for which you are applying) is a good fit for you and your career goals?
4. Describe your research experience and interests, and discuss your interests in conducting research as part of your career.
5. Throughout your personal and professional goals statement, address any specific training or work you've done to advance racial and social justice, and/or the ways in which you envision your contributions to the professions of human sexuality advancing racial and social justice.

Personal Statement (2-3 pages)

Because our graduates are engaged with other individuals' important and sensitive areas of human life, our program is strongly committed to affective-level education. This essay provides you with an opportunity to demonstrate your ability to engage in personal reflection. You should provide the admissions committee with a clearer picture of who you are and why have chosen to enter the field of human sexuality.

In your personal statement, please address:

1. Personal background – Describe significant life experiences that have led to the development of your personality, your values, and belief systems, and your decision to pursue a career in human sexuality.
2. Personal dispositions – Describe why you think you would make a good human sexuality studies student, and an effective sexuality educator, counselor, therapist, advocate, and/or researcher.
3. Your readiness for academically rigorous graduate work, which includes critical thinking and engagement with research literature as well as extensive academic writing.
4. Your ability to manage the heavy demands of graduate school along with your other personal and professional responsibilities.
5. Any specific strengths and weaknesses in relation to the human sexuality professions.