



## Personal Statement/Statement of Purpose

### Examples and Instructions

Your personal statement or statement of purpose should describe what appeals to you about a career in occupational therapy (OT), and why you want to study this subject at the graduate level. Use the following questions to help you write the essay and formulate your personal statement:

- What qualities, character traits and personality characteristics do you think you would make a good FMU OTD candidate?
- What skills and experiences will help you be a successful student in the FMU OTD program?
- Why have you applied to the FMU OTD program? What excites you the most about becoming an FMU OTD student?
- How does an Occupational Therapy Doctorate Degree from FMU relate to your immediate and long-term professional goals?
- How will your personal, educational, and professional background help you to achieve your goals?

When writing the essay, be sure to keep it concise. Before you submit the essay, remember to edit it one, two, even three times to ensure there are no spelling mistakes, missing punctuation, or grammatical errors.

### Personal Statement Do's & Don't

DO	DON'T
demonstrate through your writing that you know what OT is and why it's important.	plagiarize
showcase why you'll make a great addition to their program. Be sure to include any unique qualities that will differentiate you from the other applicants.	be a downer. Avoid going into detail about your dislikes, negative views, or problems in your life.
talk about your shadowing experience, volunteering and work experience that is relevant to the field of OT.	guess what you think the reader wants you to say. Be honest and don't write in a way that is out of line with who you really are.
tie your personal statement together. If you make several different points, try to piece them together for the reader to show that you've really thought through the big picture.	write an autobiography. Focus on college and post college achievements unless something in your childhood or adolescence is what drove you to a career in occupational therapy.
have at least two people (but the more the better) read and proofread the final draft of your statement. Ask friends, family members, and someone at your school's writing center. This can help spark ideas and ensure your application is completely free of typos.	