

**PROFESSIONAL AND SCHOLARLY GOAL STATEMENT FORMAT**  
for your Educational Psychology and Educational Technology Doctoral Application

The first paragraph (one or two sentences) is a concise introduction, presenting highlights of your relevant background, academic interests, and future goals to demonstrate your readiness for a doctoral graduate study program.

The second paragraph interprets your background and establishes your academic preparation for the program. If you have been a strong student, you may call attention to what you believe have been strong combinations of courses. If you have had ups and downs, you may call attention to progressive improvement in your studies or your record in selected course work that is directly related to the kinds of course work that you will undertake as a graduate student. If you scored well on the GRE, you may want to cite that fact as well. If you have had relevant experiences, you may mention them here, too. Keep in mind that graduate admissions committees want assurance that you will be a successful student. In short, this paragraph should assure the graduate admissions committee that you are mature, that your intellectual and professional interests have taken shape, and that you have begun conscientious progress toward professional development.

In this example format, the third paragraph will be a description of your professional goals. Though your statement takes the general shape of a summary of your interests and background, it also builds an argument for your admission and describes what you know about the professional careers to which this course of graduate study may lead. The logic of this argument runs this way: I know what interests me; I know that I would like to engage in this work as my profession; and I believe that the necessary, most logical way to assure me of success in this profession is to earn this graduate degree. Though you do not have to commit yourself to one career only, you are best served by presenting to the faculty as specific an idea as possible about what you intend to do with your degree. Such a statement indicates that you are goal oriented, capable of identifying what you want and of developing a systematic means to attain it. This paragraph, in conjunction with the previous one, assures the admissions committee that you are an applicant with a purpose.

The fourth paragraph should tighten your argument. Now that you have made clear your interests, background, and professional goals, you must make the case that the best way forward is to study what this particular graduate program offers. Be as specific as you can. Learn what courses this graduate program offers. Identify its faculty members and what research they are conducting. Know the program's reputation, its strengths and its weaknesses. As you describe your reasons for applying to a particular program, try to link your interests with what you know is available through that program and the College of Education. This paragraph accomplishes two ends: you place this graduate program in the continuum of your own professional development, and you demonstrate that you have applied to it as the result of an informed, reflective selection process of your own.

Your statement should close with a brief summary of your background and goals, again just a sentence or two, reaffirming both your preparation and your confidence that your choice of this graduate program is right.