Your statement of Interest and Goals is an important factor in our consideration of your application. It enables our faculty to become better acquainted with you, your background, your writing ability, and your interests. The following guidelines reflect those factors which receive the most attention by the faculty in making decisions. While there is a 10-page limit on the length of your statement, we recommend that it be about five to seven double-spaced pages.

You should cover the following topics in your statement:

1. Why have you chosen gerontology? What factors and events motivated your interest in gerontology? Discuss your attitude and philosophy toward aging in general, and your personal aging in particular. Also discuss your attitude or philosophy toward community change and advocacy.

2. What past exposure have you had to gerontology? Include any coursework or work experience (paid or volunteer) you have had related to aging. If you have had none, provide a justification of your current interest in the field of aging.

3. What are your career and educational goals? In what role and in what setting would you ultimately like to be employed? If you do not have a specific goal in mind, what are your areas of interest and what would you like to achieve during your graduate studies?

4. How would you describe your strengths and weaknesses? This should cover such areas as academic ability, capacity to work with others, leadership, and ability to cope with stress.

Return your Statement of Interest directly to the Graduate School electronically with the rest of your application materials.