Why a Personal Statement
For you:
• This is the component of your application that provides you the opportunity to let the admissions committee know who you are.
• This provides the commentary to the facts and figures and data that comprises all the other components of your application.

For the admissions committee:
• Gives them the opportunity to analyze your interests in this specific discipline.
• Allows them to gauge how serious and/or thoughtful you are about your future goals.

Determine the Parameters
• Follow the rules on word, character and/or page limits.
• Respond to specific prompts.
• If there are no prompts, generally the personal statement should be 2 to 3 pages long.

Your Writing
• Show your best writing – capture interest and maintain it.
• Avoid clichés and generalities – use specific language.
• Use examples and anecdotes to describe – show rather than tell.
• Proofread – make sure there are no typos and that your grammar and syntax are correct.

Points to Make
Use a framework that structures your personal statement. This is often a story that relates to how you became interested in the discipline or a theme that can be used to illustrate your points.
• Why/how you became interested in this particular discipline.
• Your ideas about this discipline.
• Your career goals.
• Why this program is the right one for you.
• Why you are a good candidate for this program.

Applying to More than One Program
• Start with the basic essay – the theme/structure.
• Write whatever point(s) that seems universal for each of the programs.
• Then modify as necessary for each program.