Preparing Your Statement of Purpose

Some suggestions from the GRADS Advisors at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health

- This is a statement of purpose, not a personal statement. Everything that you submit on this important essay should be directly relevant to becoming a successful School of Public Health student at UC Berkeley. Each statement you write needs to have a purpose. What does each sentence contribute to your candidacy for admission into the School of Public Health?

- Keep the statement to one page. However, if you make the admissions committee flip the page, make sure there is an important reason to do so. Reviewers have many applications to read within a short time frame for a limited number of acceptances. Thus, it is to your advantage to keep your statement clear, concise, and relevant.

- Don't let the reviewer assume anything. Make sure you are explicit in at least addressing the following:
  - What in your background, history, training and/or experiences (personal, professional, academic) have led you to pursue graduate training and/or a career in public health?
  - What are your eventual career goals in the public health professions? (e.g. what health condition and/or population do you want to work with/in?; at what level do you want to make a public health difference?)
  - Why do you need a graduate degree in public health? Why are you applying to the specific Degree Program and the Area of Concentration?
  - Why do you need to do this now?
  - Why UC Berkeley?

- For those experiences and/or circumstances that are not directly related to you pursuing graduate training in public health but have had an impact on your candidacy as an applicant, please indicate those considerations in the Personal History Statement. The more directly related something is to your application, the more appropriate it is to put it in the Statement of Purpose.

- Remember to include your resume/CV to cover and detail all your work experiences. Don't excessively repeat anything or try and list tangential experiences in your statement that is available on these documents or elaborated on in your Letters of Recommendation.

These are merely suggestions from the GRADS Advisors based on their extensive experience in reviewing Statements of Purpose and their ongoing communication with members of the Admissions Committees for the various Degree Programs and Areas of Concentration at the School of Public Health at UC Berkeley.

It should be noted that addressing all these suggestions does NOT guarantee admission to any of the Degree Programs and/or Areas of Concentration and may not be applicable or relevant to other Schools of Public Health and their criteria for appropriate statements.