

Tips for Writing a Statement of Purpose for a Developmental Psychology PhD Program

Please see ASU's [Doctoral Admissions webpage](#) for the Developmental Psychology Statement of Purpose Form.

A statement of purpose is an essay that applicants (like you!) write to their intended graduate program and should reflect who you are, why you want to pursue graduate education, and why ASU is an ideal fit for you. For example, *What sorts of experiences have prepared you for your graduate studies (e.g. courses/research experiences/internships)? What are your research interests and objectives? What drives you and keeps you motivated to do research? What are your short- and long-term research and career goals? Why are you applying to ASU, and our lab in particular? What are you hoping to gain from your time in our lab and at ASU?* The answers to these questions should be thorough and clear, as well as engaging for the admission committee (and your future advisors) to read. **We want to know all about your personal and academic journey -- how have your past experiences brought you to the decision to pursue a PhD at Arizona State, and in the Emerging Minds Lab (EML) in particular?**

Statements of Purpose for developmental psychology should not only answer the questions above, but also dig deeper into the reasons you want to study babies or kids. We already know everyone (of course!) loves working with babies and kids -- your statement is an opportunity to extend beyond these interests and elaborate on **why** and **how** you want to study them. What unique knowledge and skill set do you have that will assist you in designing, developing, and executing developmental research? If you want to work with the EML specifically, what type of skills and experiences have prepared you to conduct research with infants and young children? Let us know how these experiences have shaped you!