

CAL POLY LSAMP RESEARCH SCHOLARS

GUIDE TO WRITING YOUR MOTIVATION STATEMENT

What is a motivation statement?

A motivation statement is a document that supports a resume and explains why YOU are the best candidate for the job.² As described by Stephanie Rempe, a motivational statement should answer four basic questions:

1. Why are you applying for this opportunity?
2. What academic or personal interests do you have that relate to your application?
3. Why are you applying to **this** program in particular?
4. What can you contribute to the program?

How should I organize my motivation statement?

For the purposes of the Cal Poly LSAMP Research Scholars Competition, we are requesting that you tailor your motivation statement to meet the following criteria:

- **LENGTH:** Limit the motivation statement to no more than one half of a page.
- **CONTENT:** While the above questions provide general advice for motivation statements, this specific motivation statement should focus on responding to (1) *why this specific research project is interesting to you* and (2) *how it will advance your educational and/or research goals and how it might define your post-research plans*.

² Rempe, Stephanie. *How to write motivational statements*. The Pen & the Pad. Web. 10-24-17.