

SHPEP Personal Statement Guidelines

Your personal statement is an opportunity to share why you are interested in pursuing a health professions career and what makes you an ideal SHPEP scholar. Include any economic, cultural, and/or social experiences you have had, obstacles you have overcome, and/or community service that shaped your interests in a particular health profession.

Points to consider when writing your personal statement:

- How has your personal background, interests, and experiences influenced your decision to pursue a career in healthcare?
- What do you want program sites to know about you that has not been disclosed in another part of the application? Some examples could include your interests and/or experiences in reducing health care disparities, advancing diversity, and improving health care for all.

The available space for your personal statement essay is **600 words** or approximately one full page.

***Please note:** If you are applying to multiple health professions pathways (e.g. Medicine at Iowa, Dental at Columbia, Optometry at Western), please ensure your personal statement addresses your interests in each of the health professions pathways to which you applied.