

The Statement of Purpose (SOP) is meant to inform faculty of your research, teaching, and service plans while a graduate student in the Department of Geological Sciences.

It is NOT meant to tell us about all aspects of your life but is meant to tell us about the specific qualities you possess that would make you an ideal student, committed scientist, and valuable member of the DGS and University community. Examples from your recent past that indicate your perseverance, motivation, teamwork, and teaching aptitude would be appropriate to share.

Do NOT begin your SOP with the following statement: “When I was a child....”

As you have previously communicated with a faculty member willing to serve as your advisor, you should describe the research project or projects you plan to conduct with that individual.

You can comment on the broader scientific impact of the project, aspects of the research that you find particularly interesting, previous experiences that make you well-suited for such a project, and how the proposed research will prepare you for your future career in academia, industry, government, or the private sector. You should be able to succinctly state why the Department of Geological Sciences at The University of Alabama is the ideal place for you to pursue your scientific interests.

It should be a maximum of two pages in length, single-spaced, with Times New Roman (or similar) 12-point font and 1-inch page margins. Please title the document “Statement of Purpose.”