

FORM 1

**REASON STATEMENT FOR SELECTING THE M.S. IN EDUCATION
EDUCATIONAL AND INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES DEGREE PROGRAM**

Guidelines for Prospective Graduate Students in Preparing a Reason Statement when Applying to the EIS Graduate Program

Please print out this document and attach your typed statement to it. Please complete the bottom portion of this page.

Plan and produce your reason statement as carefully as you would a crucial term paper. Use the following general directions to help you produce an effective statement.

- Before you begin writing, read as much as possible about the program so that your statement reflects an understanding of the program and convinces the admissions committee that you both understand the program to which you are applying, and that you are a good fit for the program.
- Begin by composing a rough draft of your statement. Set it aside and read it a week later. If it still sounds good, go to the next stage. If not, rewrite it until it sounds right.
- Check your grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization carefully. These types of errors make a poor impression. Avoid slang words that make you sound uneducated and overly elaborate words or stilted language that will make you appear pompous or pretentious.
- Ask someone you trust, and who is not afraid to offer constructive criticism, to read your first draft and make suggestions. Incorporate the best suggestions into your second draft. Ask for another reading, and, if the feedback is good, then prepare your final statement.
- Your final statement should be as brief as possible--**two double-spaced pages are sufficient**. Stick to the points requested by the program, and avoid lengthy personal or philosophical discussions.
- Explain any relevant experiences (e.g., academic preparation, work related experiences), but do not try to turn them into events of cosmic proportion. Be honest, sincere, and objective--that is the best way to impress the evaluators that you are a person who is already taking a mature approach to life.

In terms of specifics, your statement should, to the fullest extent possible, address the following:

- Your purpose in pursuing graduate study. This means you must have thought this through before you try to answer the question.
- The area of study (i.e., track) in which you wish to specialize in and how it will help you to achieve the purpose previously identified. This may require you to do some research on which to base your decision.
- Your preparation and fitness for study in the area you have chosen. This is the opportunity to combine your academic background with your extracurricular or work experience to show how they make you an appropriate candidate for the program.
- Any problems or inconsistencies in your records or grades such as a bad semester. Be sure to explain such events and to justify the explanation. This should be followed by a positive statement of your abilities explaining why you are now prepared to succeed.
- Your thoughts about specific issues or problems, relative to the track you have selected, that you may wish to explore as a culminating project.
- Your intended future use of your graduate study, e.g., your career goals and/or other plans for your future.

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Please circle the track you plan to pursue:

Track I – Cognition and Instruction

Track II – Language, Culture and Education

Track III – Social Foundations

I had a personal interview with _____ [EIS Graduate Committee member]

on _____ (date) NAME OF STUDENT _____