



Guidelines for Letter of Intent (Written Statement)

As an applicant to the program, you are required to include a letter of intent that describes your interest, your special strengths, and some goals that you hope to achieve through your work in the program. The letter of intent should be 2-3 typewritten pages. Please include the following.

- Address the letter to the Program Faculty of the program you are applying for.
- Briefly introduce yourself. Show how your background and experience have prepared you for the program.
- Outline some core values and beliefs – and how they will support your success in the program.
- Tell about your learning goals – what is it you hope to learn from the program, and how you hope to use that new knowledge.
- Give an indication of your career plans and the contributions you hope to make after you complete the program.

Faculty will evaluate the statement using the following criteria:

- Your writing skills – fluency, grammar, mechanics, organization, and style
- Your commitment to core values and to professional growth and development

Program Specific Points

If you are applying to any of the following programs, please address these additional points in addition to those listed above.

Linguistically Diverse Education/Reading and Writing/Secondary English Education

- How you may have approached the teaching of literacy, English, ESL or bilingual education in the past and how that relates to your application to the program.
- Additionally, these programs address to varying degrees the needs of second language learners. Please address your willingness and/or experience in working with this population and promoting a multicultural focus.

School Psychology

- Please discuss your familiarity with school mental health practices in general and with school psychology practice in particular.

Counseling Psychology/Counselor Education

- Have you ever had any paraprofessional and/or volunteer experiences in counseling?

Early Childhood Special Education Licensure (with or without MA in ECE)

- Prior experience with young children with special needs is an important **prerequisite** to the ECSE licensure program. Please describe your background in early childhood special education. Include a description of your professional experiences with young children with, or at-risk for special needs and their families (early intervention, preschool, or k-2 settings). If you have not had experiences with young children with or at-risk for special needs, describe your ideas for and willingness to arrange on-going field experiences with young children with special needs and their families.

Early Childhood Education—MA only (without ECSE licensure)

- Prior experience with young children is an important **requirement** for this program. Please describe your background in early childhood education. Include a description of your professional experiences with young children and their families (childcare centers, early intervention agencies, community preschools, or primary [grades k – 2] settings). If you have not had experiences with young children, describe your ideas for and willingness to arrange on-going field experiences with young children.