



CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY
DIVISION OF STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES
OFFICE OF CAREER DEVELOPMENT

A Guide for Writing a Personal Statement

I. Demographics

Where were you born and raised? Who are your parents? High school attended? Honors and awards; extracurricular activities; community service; Church affiliation and other religious activities; early interest in your major field any special teachers that you have had and how they have influenced you, travel experiences, and other important information.

II. Claflin University

Why did you decide to attend Claflin? What is your major and how did you decide your major? Say something about your leadership training and your community service; what leadership activities have you been involved in? What community service have you participated in? Used Claflin motto: "the Claflin imperative: preparing students for leadership and service in a multicultural, global, and technological society." List achievements and accomplishments, honors and awards, in research: my research interests are... I have conducted the following research... I have presented the following research papers (title, location, date, etc.)

- Internship experiences Mentorship
- Publications to my credit are...
- My philosophy of life is...
- What famous quotation or saying can you use which applies to you?

III. Future Goals

I plan to graduate in (year) with honors... I plan to attend graduate school or professional school and pursue an advanced degree. What would you like to be doing 10 years from now; 20 years from now? Do you plan eventually to own your own business? As an alumni or alumnae, how do you plan to give back to Claflin University? what ideas or plans do you have to help others who are less fortunate? What are some key issues in your community and society or internationally in which you will become involved? (e.g., education, health Care, poverty, child abuse, constitutional rights, civil rights, environmental protection, teen suicide, senior citizens, discriminatory practices, and so on).

WELL DONE!



A Sample Personal Statement

(This statement was written by a student applying to a clinical psychology doctoral program.)

My name is LaTasha Doe. I was born in Queens, NY. I moved to South Carolina my sophomore year of high school. Though it was a tough transition, I became acclimated to the area quickly. My initial interest in psychology began while I was assisting a friend who was having problems at home and was contemplating suicide. I felt so helpless trying to deal with his problems that I decided to learn more about human behavior and how to help those in need. This experience led me to enroll at the illustrious Claflin University where my major is psychology. This discipline has helped me to understand more about what motivates people and I have also become more interested in the field of clinical psychology.

In addition to my educational experience, I actively pursued work experience in psychology related fields. I worked as a resident assistant in one of the dormitories during my sophomore year. In this role, I encountered students who had problems relating to their family, depression, suicide, alcohol, and drugs. I attained an internship position during my junior year as a residential intern at Triangle Neuropsychology Services in Durham, NC, a facility dedicated to teaching brain injured individuals not only to deal with their handicaps, but to overcome them. I witnessed counseling of both clients and their families, and I learned to administer and score several psychological tests used in clinical assessment. My work experience has proven to me how much more I need to learn before I can attain my goals of becoming an accomplished researcher, clinical psychologist and educator.

In the Fall of 2018, my sophomore year, I assisted the Office of Career Development with obtaining a grant to begin a program to help engage both Claflin University and the Orangeburg community with becoming more knowledgeable on important adolescent mental health issues. From this grant, Teen Watch was created. I was selected to Chair the student ran program.

I became interested in research as a junior when I enrolled in a junior level research class. By the time I graduate, I would have presented a total of five papers on a variety of topics at undergraduate research conferences. My experience with the first study, an examination of mood effects on time perception, led to other research endeavors on topics including **Student Evaluations of Faculty**, **Academic Integrity**, and **Comparisons of Personality Profiles of Mentally Ill HBCU Students**. The relevance of these projects, academic honesty and student evaluations of faculty, led to the Vice President of Student Development and Services inviting me to present my results at National Association of Student Affairs Professionals. This was the first time a Claflin University student had presented at an Forum. My long time desire has been to attend Purdue University. At Purdue University, I am specifically interested in the research efforts of Harvey Ashland (schizophrenia), Nancy Bennett (child adolescent psychotherapy outcomes), and Thomas Ginsburg (clinical, personality, and community assessment). As an undergraduate, I have learned the importance of working closely with members of the faculty. A great deal can be accomplished by working with someone who is already an expert in the field.

I have become firmly committed to the beliefs that the most appropriate way to answer "real world" questions is through basic research and that these answers should be communicated in a professional manner to those audiences who can benefit most from them. My undergraduate experiences have inspired me to continue my education in graduate school so I can further my research and make meaningful contributions in a multicultural, global and technological society.



"THE WORLD NEEDS VISIONARIES"