**Guidelines for Writing Your Professional Goal Statement**

**Directions:** The following instruction contains information about your goal statement, which is a required part of your application to Walden University. Please focus only on the information requested about you, your background, and your future goals. You are strongly encouraged to carefully proofread, grammar check, and spell check your goal statement. Overall writing presentation and clarity are very important.

**Degree and specialization**: You must clearly indicate to which degree program you are applying as well as the specialization you wish to pursue within that degree program.

**Content:** There are 6 sections described below. Please include the following information when preparing your goal statement. While not required, we strongly suggest that you format your goal statement by heading each section with the headings shown below. Write your information in paragraph form and do not use bullet format under the section headings.



**Personal/Professional Goals**

* Why you are interested in graduate school and what are your plans after you receive your degree?
* What influenced you to choose the field?
* Why are you interested in the program and specialization to which you are applying? Please note that your personal/professional goals must be in line with the specialization to which you are applying.



**Academic Experience**

o

Describe your previous undergraduate and graduate academic experience; if you do not have the

specialization background, you may want to explain how you plan to apply your prior academic skills to your chosen specialization.

You may include any experiences (e.g., study abroad, unique work or research experience) that influenced your choice of graduate program/specialization.

Explain any inconsistencies in academic record or work experience. If your GPA is not what you would have liked, explain special personal, physical or family circumstances that may have adversely affected your GPA.

o

o



**Research Experience**

o Address prior research experience, significant research papers/projects or other research accomplishments in your field. If you do not have any prior research experience, you must indicate that under this section.



**Work /Other Experience**

o What is your prior work experience? Include any volunteer work and/or extracurricular activities that complement your career decision. If you do not have any relevant experience, you should indicate this. You can also address any cultural knowledge or experiences you may have acquired that may better prepare you for the field.



**Personal Qualities**

o Include in this section personal qualities (e.g., interpersonal skills, team work skills, etc.) you possess that you believe will contribute to your success in your field and graduate study.



**Why Walden?**

* Indicate why Walden would be a good match for you and your future goals.
* What interested you about Walden (this could include courses, faculty, and / or research projects and facilities)?
* Why are you interested in an online program?