



Research Philosophy

A research statement is an important element of the job materials packet for those seeking academic positions, particularly for those applying to research institutions. A research philosophy is a summary of your research experience and research interests, including past, present, and future endeavors.

1. Audience:

- A. A hiring committee will examine your research philosophy as a part of your job materials packet.
- B. Colleagues will examine your research philosophy both to identify opportunities for collaboration as well as to identify your areas of expertise.

2. Purpose: Your research philosophy should do the following:

- A. State your qualifications and accomplishments.
- B. Establish your ability to benefit the institution through your research contributions, your ability to attain grant money, your ability to collaborate, your ability to mentor students, and your ability to develop new and exciting courses.
- C. Outline your previous publications, your current research, and your research interests.
- D. Highlight your academic strengths and abilities.
- E. Demonstrate your weight as a serious scholar.

3. Format:

- A. This document should be 1-2 pages in length.
- B. Use headings and subheadings to clearly organize information.
- C. Use 12-point Times New Roman font.

4. Organization:

- A. Introduction: Your introduction should begin with a broad statement of your research interests, why they are significant, and how they will benefit the academic and practicing communities
 - I. Begin with a broad statement about your research interests.
 - II. Introduce your primary area of research.
 - III. Explain why you are interested in a particular research area.
 - IV. Describe where you fit in to the research area and what you contribute to the field.
 - V. Describe how your research benefits the academic and practicing communities.
- B. Body: The body will cover your research in terms of past, present, and future work.
 - I. Past Research:
 - a) Describe your dissertation.
 - b) Break the dissertation into its major components (problem, methodology, findings, and recommendations).
 - c) Summarize the findings.
 - d) Describe the potential for your dissertation to evolve into journal articles or a book.
 - II. Current Research:
 - a) Explicitly and briefly describe the research you are currently conducting.



- b) Contextualize your work in your field.
- c) Explain why your research is significant.

III. Future Research:

- a) Describe the problems or research questions you wish to explore in the future.
- b) Explain how and to whom your research interests are relevant.
- c) Provide your specific goals for a 3-5 year period, including any potential outcomes.
- d) List the funding agencies to which you can apply.

5. Writing Considerations:

- A. Tailor your research statement to the position for which you are applying.
- B. Focus on the research that will make you a good fit for the department, college, and university.
- C. Include grants you have applied for and those that you have been awarded.
- D. Include conference papers that evolved into publications.