

MSEd: Instructional Leadership/Literacy Education/Outdoor Education Statement of Purpose Guidelines

Purpose: The statement of purpose is a series of responses to prompts used to clarify the candidate's expectations from MSEd: Instructional Leadership/Literacy Education/Outdoor Education. This work also serves as an evaluation of the candidate's ability to communicate effectively using academic writing. Completion of this statement is required prior to admission to graduate programs in the School of Education, Psychology, and Counseling.

Instructions:

Complete each section below. The response should be sufficiently comprehensive for the evaluation committee to have a clear understanding of why you should be admitted to the program. Ensure that you have answered each question completely.

NOTE: The use of AI is not appropriate for the completion of this essay. The committee would like to hear your voice and get to know you better as a potential MSEd student.

Evaluation

Your essay will be evaluated using a rubric, which assesses:

- Focus and support (clarity of ideas and use of relevant evidence)
- Understanding of audience (professional tone and appropriateness for graduate admissions)
- Motivation (strength and coherence of your introduction and purpose)
- Conventions or mechanics (grammar, spelling, and sentence structure)
- Organization and clarity (thesis, logical flow, and overall coherence of the essay)

Applicants should ensure that their responses reflect their authentic voice, readiness for master's-level work, and commitment to professional development.

Section One: Program Fit, Beliefs, and Goals

- Why is Southern Adventist University Graduate Studies in (area of emphasis) the appropriate program for you?
- How does the program align with your professional beliefs and goals, and with your short- and long-term career goals?
- What are your expectations as a graduate student in this program?

(Type response to Section 1 here.)

Section 2: Professional Identity as a Leader and Learner

- Describe who you are as a professional and leader (e.g., in PK–12, higher education, etc.).
- What knowledge, skills, and dispositions do you currently demonstrate that will enable you to be successful in a graduate program?

(Type response to Section 2 here.)

Section 3: Evidence of Commitment to Students and Impact on Learning

- Share several examples of your classroom practice that demonstrate that you are committed to students and their learning, particularly those who demonstrate some type of diversity.
- Explain how these efforts have supported learning and improvement, particularly for individuals or groups who represent diverse backgrounds, abilities, or perspectives.

(Type response to Section 3 here.)

Section 4: Spiritual Growth and Wellness,

- Spiritual growth and wellness are crucial to effective teaching, leadership, and learning. Discuss your current practice of spiritual growth and wellness, and how you believe these practices will sustain you in a demanding graduate program.

(Type response to Section 4 here.)

Section 5: Strengths and Readiness for Graduate Study

- Discuss your personal and professional strengths in relation to being a master's student (e.g., writing, research, collaboration, problem-solving, persistence).
- Explain how these strengths will contribute to your success in the MEd program and to your development as a leader.

(Type response to Section 5 here.)

Section 6: Challenges, Growth Areas, and Support Strategies

- Discuss any challenges or growth areas that may affect your effectiveness as a master's student (e.g., time management, research skills, work-life balance)

- Describe how you plan to address these challenges during your program and what strategies or supports you anticipate using to remain effective and successful.

(Type response to Section 6 here.)