

Academic Statement

The academic statement is one of the most important parts of your application. Be sure to address each one of the following items:

- Your plans for graduate study

Identify the degree program to which you are applying (MS-Plan A, MS-Plan B, or Ph.D.) and whether this is in Food Science or Human Nutrition. Discuss WHAT you want to study during your degree program, including your intended focus area(s). Identify faculty member(s) who you believe most closely match your interests. Include a summary of discussions you and potential advisor(s) have had.

- Your interests, passions, and career goals

Clearly explain WHY you want to earn this degree. What motivates your interest in this program? What experiences have led to this choice?

- Why FSHN?

Explain why this interdisciplinary program is a good fit with your goals and how MSU's FSHN graduate program will help you meet your career and educational objectives.

- Your contributions

What will you contribute to the FSHN department, MSU and your fellow students?

- Weaknesses

If you have apparent weaknesses in your application materials, please explain them.

Personal Statement

Include a separate personal statement about how your background and life experiences, including social, economic, cultural, familial, educational, or other opportunities or challenges, motivated your decision to pursue a graduate degree from FSHN. Describe how these experiences have prepared you or led you to your proposed degree work (note that "change of career" is OK as part of the rationale). Students who have overcome economic barriers or extreme personal, social, or cultural obstacles to seek a graduate degree are encouraged to include this information in your personal statement. Feel free to focus on a single aspect of your background or to write about multiple experiences.