

UC Davis Graduate Studies provides guidelines for writing your **Statement of Purpose** and **Personal History and Diversity Statement** for graduate admissions: <https://grad.ucdavis.edu/statement-purpose-personal-history-and-diversity-statement>. Additionally, here are some things to consider when writing your statements for the UC Davis Earth and Planetary Sciences Graduate Program:

1. Graduate school is a multiyear commitment learning and conducting research: what motivates you to apply to our specific program and what motivates you to attend graduate school at this time?
2. Describe a time when you took initiative on something, either academic or outside of academics, that highlights some of these traits: independence, curiosity or problem-solving skills.
3. Consider a past experience of being part of a team (academic or extra-curricular) and tell us about the how the role(s) you played on the team (leader, synthesizer, heavy-lifter, etc) contributed to its success. Also, describe what you learned about successful teamwork and/or team culture through the experience.
4. Tell us about your perseverance and maturity: briefly describe a challenging time (one in which you did not fully succeed) and describe how you responded to that experience and what you learned from the experience. Then, also briefly describe an experience where you struggled through a challenging time but eventually succeeded. How did you get through that struggle and the stress associated with it?