

HD Undergraduate Scholarship Personal Statement Brainstorming Guide

The **Personal Goal Statement** is a critical component of your scholarship application. This resource is a roadmap to help you reflect on your unique journey and craft a meaningful narrative.

Important: **This is Not a Q&A form or list.** It just serves as a resource to help you navigate your writing in the personal statement. Think of it as a roadmap designed to help you move from a list of facts to a compelling story. See the instructions below for how to use this guide.

How to Use This Guide

- **Reflect and Brainstorm:** Use the four categories below to recall specific moments, accomplishments, and growth throughout your journey in Human Development.
 - **Select for Alignment:** Scholarships in the HD department vary in their focus. You do not need to select every category or prompt. Instead, select the categories and "framing ideas" that best align with the specific mission of the scholarship you are applying for.
 - **Frame Your Story:** Use the "Narrative Framing" prompts as starting points to recall specific moments—such as a leadership role where you advocated for a scholarship emphasizing on leadership—and use those memories to phrase your statement.
 - When writing your personal statement, try to provide specific examples and details instead of general descriptions. This provides the selection committee with clear evidence of your growth and achievements, which helps them distinguish your application from others.
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1. Academic Preparation & Achievement

Consider your academic achievements relevant to HD, such as your GPA, honors, impactful coursework, class projects, or awards.

Narrative Framing Ideas:

- Choose your most significant academic accomplishment, such as a high-impact project, overcoming a challenge, or mastering a complex HD concept.
 - Reflect on how this accomplishment prepared you for your career goals and how it connects to the scholarship's focus, such as early childhood or family systems.
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2. Leadership (in HD, CAHNRS, or Campus-wide)

Reflect on leadership roles you've held within HD, CAHNRS, campus organizations, or student groups, such as serving as a club officer, event organizer, or peer mentor.

Narrative Framing Ideas:

- Describe your most impactful leadership role.
 - Consider how you collaborated with others, solved a problem, or advanced HD values like equity and advocacy.
 - Think about the measurable outcomes you achieved during your time in this role.
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3. Community Service & Impact

Think about volunteer work, internships, or service projects where you applied HD principles, such as tutoring, organizing food drives, or advocating for social justice.

Narrative Framing Ideas:

- Identify your most meaningful service experience.
 - How did you address a specific community need, such as childcare access, elder care, or disability support?
 - Which HD concepts, such as resilience or cultural competence, guided your work, and what impact did you observe?
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4. Research Experiences

Reflect on your research projects, independent studies, or data-driven work, including class assignments or assisting faculty. Consider any presentations, papers, or conferences where you shared these findings.

Narrative Framing Ideas:

- Describe your most meaningful research experience.
- What question did you explore, and how did your findings relate to HD areas like child development or aging populations?
- What skills, such as data analysis or interviewing, did you gain, and how will they help your future goals?