

**The Personal Essay:
Rollins School of Public
Health Application**

You want to

- Present a clear, positive picture of who you are and how acceptance to the program will help you achieve your goals.
- Persuade the admissions committee that you are an applicant they should choose.
- Show that you have the experience, knowledge, skills, and motivation to succeed in your chosen field.

The Personal Essay is a concise narrative that

- Outlines your career goals
- Describes how the program of study you have selected will help you achieve them
- Is limited to approximately 1500 words
- Is specific to your first-choice program (Global Health, HPM, BSHE . . .)

Questions for Writing

- What has led you to pursue graduate training and a career in public health? (From your background, history, training, and experiences (personal, professional, academic))
- What were the 3 most influential experiences that led you to pursue your field of study/career interest?
- What are your public health interests?
- What are your future career goals in public health (e.g., what health condition or population do you want to work with? What do you see as your contribution in public health)?