

Quick Tip Sheet

Rhode to Grad School



<p>Step 1 - Module</p>	<p>Complete our Graduate School module on our website.</p>
<p>Step 2 – Explore</p>	<p>Determine if your career path will require a graduate degree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● O*NET (www.onetonline.org) ● Occupational Outlook Handbook (www.bls.gov/ooh) <p>CCEE Tip: Use LinkedIn’s Alumni Finder tool to see which graduate programs URI Alumni attended. What internships did they have in graduate school? What job do they have now?</p>
<p>Step 3 – Research</p>	<p>Research graduate programs using the following websites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● www.gradschools.com ● www.petersons.com ● www.princetonreview.com <p>CCEE Tip: Meet with your professors to help you assess program/degree benefits and considerations, including curriculum, mission, faculty, funding, and graduate assistantships.</p> <p>Bonus: Relationships with professors could lead to a great letter of recommendation.</p>
<p>Step 4 – Prepare</p>	<p>Investigate admission requirements and deadlines.</p> <p>Note: Some graduate programs require standardized exams such as: GRE, GMAT or LSAT. Create a timeline to study and complete practice exams (recommended: approx 6 months).</p>
<p>Step 5 – Experience</p>	<p>Gain experience through internships, volunteering, clubs, and organizations to build your resume. Network with employers (such as career fairs on campus) to build your knowledge of job requirements and which graduate programs prepare you effectively.</p>
<p>Step 6 – Feedback</p>	<p>Acquire multiple perspectives (professors, professionals, Career Education Specialist) to proofread your application documents (resume/CV, personal statement) before submitting.</p>
<p>Step 7 – Choose</p>	<p>Choose a graduate program that meets all your needs (not just your preferred location).</p> <p>CCEE Tip: Keep yourself organized as you go through the application process. Create a spreadsheet of important dates and application materials required for each program.</p>

How Do I Write A Great Personal Statement?

Each program you apply for should have a [personal statement](#) tailored to the program requirements and should highlight your academic preparation, motivation and interests, career goals and/or research interests.

An effective personal statement should include **why you are interested in the program** you are applying to, and **how you will contribute to their program**. What interests and previous experience make you an ideal candidate?

Step 1: Preparation

Before writing your personal statement, identify how you meet the program’s criteria. Based on the program details, what do you know from the website or information sessions? What is the program looking for in a candidate?

Program Qualifications	Personal Accomplishments	Community Experiences	Academic Accomplishments	Professional Experience
These will vary for each program	Talents, attributes, capabilities that make you unique	Clubs/Orgs, volunteer, civic engagement	Honors, awards, scholarships, achievements	Internships, part time work, research

Step 2: Add in what makes you unique

What are some ways this program matches your personal values? How will you contribute to the program to further its value or goals? Essentially, how can you bring your personal statement from a “me” to a “we” focused document?

Make yourself a desirable candidate by adding in an idea, topic, or issue that you are passionate about. This is an effective essay opener and allows the reader to find out more about you in a different way.

Pro-Tip: Research the faculty that are part of the graduate program. Are they doing research or focusing on an area that you are interested in, or could contribute to in a positive way? This should be included in your personal statement!

Step 3: Ask for feedback

Make an appointment to have your personal statement reviewed for grammar and spelling with the [URI Writing Center](#). Ask multiple people to review it: faculty, supervisors, colleagues, family members.