

Guidelines for Preparing Your Personal Statement

Candidate's statement (Maximum of FOUR pages for non-clinical faculty, THREE pages for clinical faculty).

The candidate's statement should be no more than three or four pages in length and double-spaced between paragraphs. Neither this statement, nor any part of it, should be repeated or further developed elsewhere in the dossier. The candidate should provide an introductory statement about their professional identity and the context of their work within the broad field(s) in which they are working. This statement should explain such matters as the character, coherence, direction, and purpose of the candidate's scholarly and professional work, including the integration of teaching, research and creative activity, and service. Scholarship, which is pervasive across all three missions of the university, is broadly defined at Virginia Tech as the creation of knowledge that is peer reviewed and publicly disseminated. The candidate should provide the context for her/his work in the specific areas of scholarship and how her/his contributions are evaluated comparatively to others. As a land-grant university, Virginia Tech values the application of teaching and research in fulfillment of its outreach and extension responsibilities. Outreach accomplishments should be reported in context of research and teaching, as well as international and professional service.

As part of your statement, please briefly describe your approach to teaching. The purpose of preparing a teaching philosophy statement is to clearly and concisely describe your beliefs about teaching, to explain why you believe what you believe about teaching, and to present how you put those beliefs into action in your teaching. This is a *reflective* process and is meant to demonstrate how intentional you are about how you teach, as well as how you learn and try to grow in your teaching in the classroom or the clinical context over time through your reflection. It is not simply a description of the courses you teach, or how many medical students or residents you have worked with as a preceptor. It is also not intended to be a simple description of how you teach learners in the clinical or classroom context, but gets at deeper concepts related to *why* you teach the way you teach, your goals for yourself and your learners, and any principles that guide the approaches you take to teaching.

The overall candidate's statement should enable reviewers to understand clearly the candidate's professional aims and achievements. This statement should provide all reviewers with a clear understanding of the candidate's research and creative activities; brief teaching philosophy statement; graduate and undergraduate student mentorship; service and outreach achievements; international activities; interdisciplinary work (if applicable); and active involvement in diversity and inclusion work.