

02/21/07

## SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS REGARDING THE STATEMENT OF INTENT:

The function of the Statement of Intent is twofold. First, this document is your opportunity to express your interests within the field of ecological and environmental anthropology, including past and potential research interests and experiences and why you wish to pursue your interests at the University of Georgia. Second, this document showcases your writing skills, which the Department of Anthropology values in applicants to our program. Serious applicants should invest appropriate time and effort into crafting an effective and efficient Statement.

Your Statement of intent should focus on why UGA=s Department of Anthropology is the best place for you to pursue your research interests given your vision of anthropology and your career objectives. One of the primary criteria upon which essays are evaluated is the strength of the applicant=s ecological/environmental focus. Good essays typically establish a trajectory of interest, from past scholarly, professional, and travel experiences to theories, problems, and data sets that intrigue or inspire you, to your current and future interests and objectives. Thus, the focus of your Statement should be on your professional interests and the role the Department can play in your professional development.

The Statement of Intent is a different kind of document than an undergraduate college entry essay. Family history/situation, childhood memories, extracurricular activities, etc., are generally irrelevant.

### DO:

Begin your Statement with an introductory paragraph that succinctly states your interests and objectives.

Elaborate upon this in 3-4 paragraphs. In these paragraphs identify the **one or two faculty members with whom you are most interested and who might serve as your major professor.** Summarize the Statement in the final, concluding paragraph.

Write clearly, efficiently, and briefly. Make your points as obvious to the reader as possible.

Describe research, education, and travel experiences that demonstrate your interest trajectory.

### DO NOT:

Do not send additional writing samples beyond the Statement of intent.

Do not write a biographical essay.

The Department also considers evidence that the student has demonstrated an interest in our program. It is highly recommended that students communicate with faculty members with whom they have an interest in working prior to submitting their applications. It is also useful to visit the Department. Such contacts should help you clarify your reasons for applying to the Department and confirm that your interests match those of the faculty and resources available at UGA. This will help you write your Statement.