

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Goal Statement Instructions

Please address all of the items in one document and with the title “**Last Name_First Name PhDGoalStatement.pdf**”. Be sure to number your responses for clarity. Submit your goal statement as a PDF document to your PhD application form via the online application portal.

The goal statement can be crucial in helping us understand our applicants better and determine how well our program matches up with each applicant and their expectations. This document will be reviewed by our admissions committee not only as a source of information but also as an example of your writing ability. It is important to be as specific as possible and focus on your professional goals and how you envision these goals can be achieved through study at McWilliams School of Biomedical Informatics.

Please make sure your goal statement addresses the following bullet points:

- 1. Provide a brief summary (250 words or less) of your background in fields relevant to biomedical informatics (clinical fields, computer science, statistics, cognitive science, biology, etc.).**
- 2. Provide a brief summary (250 words or less) of your previous research experience and/or clinically applied work.**
- 3. In 500 words or less, please state your short and long-term career objectives, including how the opportunities provided by your McWilliams program will assist you in achieving those objectives. **If applying to a dual degree program, please include how the dual degree program with the partnership school will assist in your career trajectory. ****
- 4. Please identify any McWilliams faculty members whose research aligns with your own research goals or other areas of collaboration. Alternatively, you may identify specific McWilliams classes that interest you.**
- 5. Describe (in 250 words or less) any barriers to success you’ve encountered in your educational or professional career and how you’ve overcome them and how the skills and knowledge you leveraged to circumvent these barriers may also help with the demands of being enrolled in a PhD program.**