



Sam Houston State University

A Member of The Texas State University System

Master of Education Degree in Special Education Writing Sample Instructions

As part of your application process to the SHSU Special Education Graduate Program, the faculty requires completion of a personal statement from you. In order to evaluate your credentials fairly, we need to know about you and your professional goals so that we can determine if a good match potentially exists between what our program offers and what you are seeking in a master's degree or professional certification program. Please respond to the following question:

Describe your background in working with children and youth with disabilities. State your goals for attaining this graduate degree

We purposely wish to give you wide latitude in deciding what elements to include in your statement. Example of what you may wish to include:

- A profile of your beliefs, values and philosophy,
- A concise narrative about a critical incident in your life that has had an influence on your decision to enter special education,
- An assessment of your strengths and weaknesses,
- An illustration of your creativity in working on a project or facing a challenge, or
- Other information that you think is pertinent to helping us to evaluate your application.

The length of the essay should be one, double-spaced, typed page. It is important to keep in mind that this statement will be reviewed for **content**, and your **writing skills** will be judged.

The essay should be **uploaded into Radius with your other completed application materials** by the appropriate deadline.