

Tips for a Strong Application

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Programs in Our Department

- Master's
 - Biomedical and Health Informatics (M.S.)
 - Biostatistics (M.S.)
 - Clinical Research (M.S.)
 - Public Health (MPH)
- PhD
 - Biomedical and Health Informatics
 - Clinical and Translational Science
 - Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Your Application Needs to ...

- Convince us:
 - You can do well in our program (aptitude, prior success)
 - You know what the field is and why it makes sense for you
 - Your career/professional goals align with our program
 - Do your homework on our program
 - You and our program are a good “match”
 - For PhD program: demonstrate experience and commitment to research

General Comments

- Applications are reviewed holistically
 - Every part matters
 - Weakness in one area can be compensated for in other parts
- No official minimum GPA/score
 - But if its low, you need to compensate and/or explain
- We're looking for win-win
 - If we aren't the right program for you, we'll say so
- OK to apply for different kinds of programs, but customize your application for each type of program
- Contact the program with questions
 - Almost all applicants are in contact with us
 - Ask your questions

Elements of an Application – They All Matter!

- Transcripts (upload an unofficial transcript to your application)
- Personal Statement / Statement of Purpose
- MPH only: Reflection Essay
- CV (Resume)
- Letters of Recommendation (3)
- International students need TOEFL, IELTS or Pearson scores *unless* they completed a Bachelor's or more advanced degree in an English-based program.
- Standardized Testing – Not required, but if you wish to submit scores, you may, e.g. GRE, MCAT.

Transcripts

- All undergraduate and graduate transcripts
- Unofficial copies are fine
 - Sufficient to be reviewed
 - Official copy only needed to start program
- International students may need to have their transcripts evaluated for GPA or degree equivalency

Personal Statement

- Your background. Tell us your story. OK to brag a little, don't overdo it.
- Why are you interested in this field?
 - Show us you know what the field is and why you want to pursue it
- What do you want to do for your career?
- How does this degree program fit in with your plans?
- Why *our* program? (Hint: Don't just copy/paste from website)
 - For PhD program, higher bar for showing you checked us out thoroughly
- Address any "issues" – and why they won't be a problem here
 - e.g. Low GPA – why? Health issue, family issue, wrong major
 - We are very understanding!

CV (Resume)

- Include education, work experience, skills, awards and publications
- Highlight anything strongly related to the field
- Highlight any research experience
- Highlight responsibility
- Highlight ability to multi-task

Letters of Recommendation

- Include three letters of recommendation
 - If applying to a Master's program
 - At least 2 letters should be from professors / academics
 - A letter from a supervisor at work is fine
 - If applying to a PhD program
 - All three letters should be from professors / academics
 - One may be from a research job supervisor
 - If out of school for a while, one academic letter is acceptable
- Get letters from people who know you and can talk specifics. We already have your grades, so a letter that just says you got an "A" doesn't help.
- Have recommenders:
 - Include personal interactions, projects you worked on together
 - Include research interest/aptitude, intellectual curiosity, related skills, responsibility
 - Provide a different dimension, not what can be seen on a transcript