

Instructions for Statement of Intent

General Instructions

The purpose of your Statement of Intent is to help application reviewers learn more about you and understand your interest in Special Populations. As we take a holistic approach to reviewing applications, this is your opportunity to provide context or additional information about your background that may not be clear elsewhere in your application. For example, if you faced challenges during your freshman year in college that impacted your grades, but you later excelled in your major courses, this is the place where you can explain those difficulties and how you improved your academic performance.

Your Statement of Intent should be 1–2 pages, double-spaced, using 12-point Times New Roman font. Below, we've provided specific prompts for each track/specialization that will guide us in evaluating your statement. We recommend using headers for each prompt to help organize your response and make it easier for reviewers to see your answers to each section.

Track/Specialization Prompts

Special Education Track

The special education track focuses on obtaining the necessary capacity for working with individuals with disabilities. Please address the following questions in your statement:

- *Skills and Aptitude*: What are your skills and aptitudes related to working with special populations? Include a discussion of your experiences, strengths and weaknesses, skillset, and plan for the future.
- *Reflection*: Discuss a previous experience that caused you to reflect on yourself and then how you used that reflection to learn from the experience.
- *Stance*: Discuss your passion for serving students with disabilities and your commitment to students' success. Why do you believe working with individuals with disabilities is important, and how does it align with your personal and professional values?

Special Education Certification Track

Certification in the special populations program focuses on supporting students with suspected or identified disabilities, as well as meets certification requirements to teach special education (EC-12) in the state of Texas. Please address the following questions in your statement:

- *Skills and Aptitude*: What are your skills and aptitudes related to working with special populations? Include a discussion of your experiences, strengths and weaknesses, skillset, and plan for the future.
- *Reasons for Becoming a Special Education Teacher*: Why do you want to become a special education teacher?
- *Philosophy*: What is your philosophy for working with students with special needs?
- *Reflective Process*: What is your reflective process?

Special Education Certification applicants, your application will also be reviewed by the UH Teacher Education program. So, in addition to completing your application in ApplyWeb, you will also need to complete a formal application which includes an interview video with the UH Teacher Education program. Please follow this link to the UH Teacher Education Admissions Interview Process.

Special Education Leadership Track

The special education leadership track prepares students who are working with learners with disabilities and other special needs to assume administrative roles in special education in a K-12 school or at the district level. Please address the following questions in your statement:

- *Skills and Aptitude*: What are your skills and aptitudes related to special populations and leadership? Include a discussion of your strengths and weaknesses, skillset, and how this degree may shape your future work.
- *Reflection*: Tell us about a specific experience where you were in a leadership position or worked with a person in a leadership position to facilitate change. What did you learn from that experience, and how did it help you grow both professionally and personally?
- *Stance*: Discuss your passion for serving students with disabilities, your commitment to students' success, values, etc.

Educational Diagnostician Certification Track

Certification in the special populations program focuses on supporting and assessing students with suspected or identified disabilities. Please address the following questions in your statement:

- *Skills and Aptitude*: What are your skills and aptitudes related to working with special populations? Include a discussion of your experiences, strengths and weaknesses, skillset, and plan for the future.
- *Reasons for Becoming a Special Education Teacher*: Why do you want to become an educational diagnostician?

- *Philosophy*: What is your philosophy for working with students with special needs?
- *Reflective Process*: What is your reflective process?
- *Prerequisites*: Explain how you meet the prerequisites for this program. Specifically, discuss your valid teaching certification and your service credit. If you have fewer than three years of creditable service in a public, charter, or [TEPSAC](#)-accredited private school, discuss your plan for meeting the three year creditable service requirement whole you complete this program.

Applied Behavior Analysis Track

The special education ABA track prepares students who are working with learners with disabilities and other special needs to implement behavioral therapy. Please address the following questions in your statement:

- *Skills and Aptitude*: What are your skills and aptitudes related to working with special populations? Include a discussion of your experiences, strengths and weaknesses, and skillset.
- *Reflection*: Discuss a previous experience where you worked directly with an individual with disabilities that impacted you deeply. What did you learn from that experience, and how did it help you grow both professionally and personally? Describe a time when you had to adapt your approach to meet the unique needs of an individual with a disability. How did you modify your strategy, and what was the outcome?
- *Reasons for Becoming a Behavior Analyst*: What attracted you to pursue a degree in Applied Behavior Analysis specifically, as opposed to other fields within the realm of disability services or psychology? How do you envision using the knowledge and skills gained through an ABA degree in your future career? What kind of work environment or role do you hope to pursue after completing the program?