

**Part B: Statement of Objectives Essay**

**Please read through all the essay options before you begin writing. If your specific program is *not* outlined in options I – IV, you should follow the guidelines for V.**

**I. This essay is required only for the Advanced Counseling and School Counseling Certificate programs.**

Please write one integrated essay (1-2 pages) on your long term professional goals, addressing the following questions:

- How has your Master's degree in Counseling influenced your current position as a counseling professional or intern?
- What population(s) do you plan to work with in your professional discipline, and what special knowledge will this certificate afford you?
- If this certificate will enable you to change your professional direction in terms of setting/population, please explain why you desire this change? (For example, if you have a Master's in School Counseling and would like to gain an LPC).

**II. This essay is required for the MBA program.**

Please write a personal statement of your professional objectives, 1-2 pages in length. You may discuss any of the following topics:

- Your ultimate career goals, and the ways in which you expect the MBA to advance them.
- Personal and/or professional accomplishments that demonstrate your ability to master new challenges.
- Gaps in your existing knowledge or experience that affects your job satisfaction or productivity, and that you believe will be addressed by the MBA.

Please note that this statement is your opportunity to demonstrate your written communication skills as well as your interest in the MBA.

**III. This essay is required for Master's of Arts in Teaching (MAT) or Initial Instructional Certification programs.**

A major goal of Montclair State University's teacher education program is to educate teachers who understand how to prepare their students for democratic citizenship. Democratic citizenship includes the ability to think critically and to play an active role in improving our society.

Please review the "Portrait of a Teacher" on the next page and note that several of the standards in the Portrait focus on this important goal. In a cohesive essay of **three to four double-spaced, typed pages**, please write about item numbers 5 or 6 from the "Portrait of a Teacher" addressing the following questions:

1. In your life as a citizen, student, and future teacher of this society, what experiences are reflective of this standard? Additionally, what experiences in your life have conflicted with this standard?
2. Envision yourself as a teacher. How would you foster a classroom climate that would promote this standard in your discipline? You might begin by reflecting on some of your own classroom experiences as a student. Which things would you do differently and which would you emulate in creating such as classroom climate?

**Montclair State University**  
**PORTRAIT OF A TEACHER**

The Montclair State University community is committed to the continuing development of teachers who exemplify the dispositions, knowledge, and skills reflected in this portrait. They:

1. Have expert knowledge of the disciplines they will teach and can use various strategies, including media and technology, for creating learning experiences that make the subject matter accessible and meaningful to all students.
2. Understand how children and adolescents learn and develop in a variety of school, family and community contexts, and can provide learning opportunities that support their students' intellectual, social, and personal development.
3. Understand the practice of culturally responsive teaching. They understand that children bring varied talents, strengths, and perspectives to learning; have skills for learning about the diverse students they teach; and use knowledge of students and their lives to design and carry out instruction that builds on students' individual and cultural strengths.
4. Plan instruction based upon knowledge of subject matter, students, families, communities, and curriculum goals and standards; and taking into account issues of class, gender, race, ethnicity, language, sexual orientation, age, and special needs in designing instruction.
5. Understand critical thinking and problem solving, and create learning experiences that promote the development of students' critical thinking and problem solving skills and dispositions.
6. Understand principles of democracy and plan and carry out instruction that promotes democratic values and communication in the classroom.
7. Understand and use multiple forms of assessment to promote the intellectual, social, and physical development of learners and to inform instruction.
8. Create a community in the classroom that is nurturing, caring, safe, and conducive to learning.
9. Are reflective practitioners who continually inquire into the nature of teaching and learning, reflect on their own learning and professional practice, evaluate the effects of their choices and actions on others, and seek out opportunities to grow professionally.
10. Build relationships with school colleagues, families, and agencies in the community to support students' learning and well-being, and work to foster an appreciation of diversity among students and colleagues.
11. Possess the literacy skills associated with an educated person; can speak and write English fluently and communicate clearly.
12. Develop dispositions expected of professional educators. These include belief in the potential of schools to promote social justice; passion for teaching; and commitment to ensuring equal learning opportunities for every student, critical reflection, inquiry, critical thinking, and life-long learning, the ethical and enculturating responsibilities of educators, and serving as agents of change and stewards of best practice.

**IV. This essay is required for the following programs:**

- Biology - Biology Science Education (MS)**
- Counseling (MA)**
- Early Childhood and Elementary Education (MED)**
- Educational Leadership (MA)**
- Exercise Science and Physical Education - Teaching & Supervision of Physical Education (MA)**
- Inclusive Early Childhood Education (MED)**
- Learning Disabilities (MED)**
- Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultant (CER)**
- Mathematics - Mathematics Education (MS)**
- Music - Music Education (MA)**
- New Literacies, Digital Technologies and Learning (CER)**
- Principal (CRA)**
- Reading (MA)**
- Reading Specialist (CER)**
- Special Education (MED)**
- Supervisor Advanced Certification (MED)**

In one integrated essay (not more than three double-spaced pages in length), thoughtfully discuss each of the areas identified below:

1. Why you are interested in the profession in which you want to pursue graduate work and, if applicable, the particular concentration within that profession;
2. Your knowledge of issues and trends in this profession or field;
3. What areas and topics you hope to study in depth and why;
4. Any related professional or personal experiences you have had, including opportunities to collaborate with other professionals, and how these experiences make you particularly well-suited for the profession;
5. Potential challenges and opportunities associated with diversity you think are relevant to the profession you are pursuing. Be sure to explain what you mean by “diversity” (related, for example, to race, gender, age, sexual orientation, language, disability) and how it may pose challenges or present opportunities.

**V. This essay is required for all other programs NOT specified above:**

Please write an essay providing a response to each of the following questions:

1. What are your goals for graduate study and your future career?
2. In what ways do your academic background and your professional experiences provide evidence of your potential for success in the program you selected and in your eventual career? Please give specific examples of relevant coursework and/or experience.
3. Is there any further information we should consider in assessing your candidacy?