

2024-2025 Southeastern Conference Emerging Scholars Program Research Statement Guidance

The research statement guidance below is purely informational and written as if you were to apply to a tenure-track faculty position. There is variance among disciplines and institutions in the expectations and/or requirements of research statements. The strongest advice is to have a faculty (especially someone hired recently, if possible) you know in your discipline read over your statement and give feedback.

For the purposes of this competition ONLY (and not necessarily an actual faculty position you would apply to), recognize a reviewer may not have familiarity with the expectations in your discipline (e.g., publishing a book in some disciplines compared to journal articles in others). Therefore, we recommend you have some text that indicates the “norm” in your discipline and how you are meeting or exceeding this expectation within the context of your current career stage. These statements **would not likely** go in an actual research statement you submit to a faculty position because those reviewers are likely to be in your discipline.

The next page contains the research statement guidance, and the last page has a few links to some other web resources on this topic.

Research Statement Guidance

The categories below are not meant to be sections of the statement, but rather typical information that is incorporated in a research statement.

Research program, successes, and products

- Provide a clear research program overview (usually core argument in one to two sentences or short intro paragraph)
- Describe past and ongoing research projects and justify context of research.
 - Summarize objectives and main findings (for past work) or project status (for ongoing work).
 - Relate these summaries back to theme of overall research program.
 - Important: Indicate impact to discipline and/or beyond (academic and/or society).
 - Can be applied work, but as important, address how your work advances the discipline itself.
- Indicate successes and products (i.e., indicate research productivity and accomplishments)
 - Examples (but not limited to): publications, grants, awards, presentations, patents, curricular instruments, etc.
 - Important: highlight the impact of your products (to your discipline and/or beyond) and significance of your successes (e.g., what was an award for). Think of your C.V. as a literature cited section, but here you can give context to and elaborate on the items in your C.V.
- Collegiality, collaborative potential, and/or mentorship
 - Provide examples of how you worked with others and/or incorporated perspectives of others into your research.
 - Examples (but not limited to): describe your role in collaborative projects, how directed/assisted with workshops, role in supervising students, describe how you create a conducive research environment, describe any relevant trainings such as mentor-mentee training.

Future directions/projects

- Outline short term (two to five years) and long term (career) goals and how these relate to your overall research program.
- Demonstrate your knowledge of what is needed to accomplish your goals.
 - Examples (but not limited to): potential funding sources, collaborative partners, access to resources, etc. that will support your goals.
- Indicate how postdocs or students (graduate and/or undergraduate) in your future lab would have roles in (or be trained on) these projects.
 - Give indication of how lab personnel might be recruited from various outlets.
- Describe potential impact of planned research and how you are uniquely poised/qualified to accomplish your short- and long-term goals.

Style/Clarity/Quality

- Use, but make sure to define discipline-specific vocabulary.
 - That is, demonstrate mastery of discipline, but written so non-specialists reviewers can easily follow.
- Provide logical progression and presentation of ideas.
- Double and triple check grammar, sentence structure, etc.
- Communicate interest in academic profession/position (i.e., convey enthusiasm, passion, and/or commitment)

Website resources:

Here are some websites with similar or additional information. We are not responsible for the content on these other web pages, nor are we promoting these sites per se. We are simply providing as other possible resources containing information on writing academic research statements.

<https://gradschool.cornell.edu/career-and-professional-development/pathways-to-success/prepare-for-your-career/take-action/research-statement/>

<https://careerservices.upenn.edu/application-materials-for-the-faculty-job-search/research-statements-for-faculty-job-applications/>

<https://gwc.ucr.edu/sites/default/files/2019-01/Writing-a-Research-Statement-for-the-Job-Market.pdf>