Tips for Writing Your Personal Statement

Writing the essay
The application essay gives you the opportunity to show how you are different from other applicants and provides information about you that your transcript alone cannot.

Quick Tips:
- Start early.
- Reveal yourself – show us who you are.
- Answer the questions thoroughly and completely.
- Revise, revise, and revise again.
- Ask for help throughout the writing process.

What do we look for?

Fit
What does “fit” mean? When reviewing your essay, the review committee looks for a “fit” between you and the major you are applying to. So to put it simply, we want to know why you are applying to this major. Do you have experiences that relate to this major? Any work, volunteer, academic, etc. experiences? What are your plans when you graduate that make this major right for you? The review committee wants to see a connection between the major of your choice and what you have done and what you hope to do.

Extenuating Circumstances
While this part of the essay is certainly not required, when reviewing your essay, the review committee will take into consideration any extenuating circumstances or situations that have impacted your academic career. If there is something on your transcript that does not accurately reflect who you are as a student, let us know! The CEHD review process takes a holistic approach, and these situations are taken into consideration.

Writing Ability
The review committee wants to see effective communication in your personal statement. Make sure your paper is well organized, proofread, and concise. Have someone you trust read your personal statement so you can get honest feedback. Use the writing center at your university. Lastly, always spell check!