



# GRADUATE PROGRAMS

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT

## Checklist: Tailoring Your Graduate School Essay to a Specific Program

Use this checklist to ensure your application essay clearly explains why you're applying to a specific program.

### 1. Research & Program Fit

- I have reviewed the program's mission, curriculum, and structure.
- I have identified faculty whose work aligns with my interests.
- I understand the unique features (tracks, internships, capstones) of the program.

### 2. Specificity in Writing

- I mention specific faculty, courses, or program components in my essay.
- I explain how those elements align with my academic or career goals.
- I avoid vague or generic statements that could apply to any program.

### 3. Alignment with Goals

- I clearly articulate my short- and long-term goals.
- I show how this specific program will help me achieve those goals.
- I describe what skills, experiences, or knowledge I hope to gain.

### 4. Personal Fit & Contribution

- I explain why this program is a good fit for me, personally and professionally.
- I convey what I will bring to the program community.
- I demonstrate self-awareness about my background and future aspirations.

### 5. Final Review

- I tailored this essay specifically for this program.
- Someone who read it could tell which program I'm applying to.
- I proofread the essay carefully for clarity, tone, and grammar.