



## STR Resident Application Statement of Purpose

These are the directions and guidelines for your statement of purpose. Please create 3 separate documents to upload to the UW Graduate School application portal – 1 document per section.

Please respond in essay form. Answers should be clear and complete. Your statement should demonstrate both your commitment to teaching and your writing proficiency. Respond to each section and allot up to the maximum words indicated.

### Section 1 (500 words max) – For STR Elementary Program Applicants

Tell us why you want to teach and explain why STR is the best pathway for you to become a teacher. Please include prior experiences working with children and how those experiences have prepared you for a teaching career.

OR

### Section 1 (500 words max) – For STR Special Education Program Applicants

Tell us why you want to teach in Special Education and explain why STR is the best pathway for you to become a teacher. Please include prior experiences working with children (especially your experiences working with disabilities or children with special needs) and how those experiences have prepared you for a teaching career in a Special Education classroom.

### Section 2 (500 words max)

Describe and reflect on experience(s) you have had as a person who brings diversity or with people who come from backgrounds different and/or have had experiences different from your own (i.e., race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, religion, culture, sexual orientation, disability, etc). Describe what you learned from these experiences AND what makes you believe this helps prepare you for teaching in an urban school.

### Section 3 (1000 words max)

Using the **STR Core Values** below, choose **3** statements (label your choices in your essay) and explain why they resonate for you. Make connections and provide specific examples on how your values and personal story align to the statements you choose.

#### **STR Core Values – Each student deserves an exceptional teacher who...**

- 1) Knows and cares deeply about his/her students and believes in the capacity of all students to exceed at the highest level.
- 2) Finds joy in learning with students and colleagues, and engages in practice with both integrity and humility.
- 3) Creates an equitable learning environment.
- 4) Knows and draws upon the assets of the communities in which his/her students live.
- 5) Has deep subject matter knowledge.
- 6) Thrives on opportunities to learn and collaborate with his/her colleagues, community and profession.
- 7) Demonstrates leadership and perseveres through challenging circumstances in the classroom and beyond.
- 8) Seeks work/life balance to nurture one's own health and wellness.