Application Statement

Description/Instructions: Our overall mission is to enhance the diversity of the health-related research workforce by increasing the interests, skills, and competitiveness of undergraduate students to pursue graduate school (Ph.D.). We aim to create engaging and supportive spaces where students can safely represent their different backgrounds and perspectives and apply their unique viewpoint to support their community through research.

Use this statement to share with the review committee who you are! When writing your statement, be sure to answer each prompt below:

* Briefly describe your **long-term career plans** in one-three sentences.
* Please describe any prior **research-related experience** and/or the areas of research you are curious or passionate about. Research-related experience can include mentor/professor-directed research or participation in science fairs or clubs, or any other activity (e.g., class) that required data collection and analysis. Please describe the project(s) and your contribution to it (them). Please note that having such prior experience is not a requirement for possible engagement in the program. (250 words maximum)
* Being successful in a research environment requires one to be **persistent** when challenges arise. Please give an example of a challenging situation where your persistence allowed you to be successful. This example does not have to be school related. (250 words maximum)
* We believe that everyone "brings something to the table" from their own personal experiences that can be used to benefit and strengthen our communities. Please describe a **quality or personality trait** you have that you can use to strengthen your community. (250 words maximum)

Additional Tips:

* Be yourself. This should tell your story to the committee. What about you is different? What are you passionate about?
* Diversity is broad – reflect on your experiences and passions. Describe any experiences you have living/working with a diverse community that influenced your passion for research.
* What are some things that make my perspective diverse? These are only a few examples. Various communities you are a part of (e.g., LGBTQIA+), gender, ability, family, background, disability (physical/mental), underrepresented racial & ethnic groups, disadvantaged backgrounds (homeless, foster care, 1st generation college student), received federal/government funding (WIC, Pell grants, free lunch program, etc.). *Want to learn more?* [*Visit NIH’s page: Diversity Matters*](https://extramural-diversity.nih.gov/diversity-matters)*.*
* Not very familiar with research yet, that is ok! Learn more here: [What is Research?](https://www.csulb.edu/building-infrastructure-leading-to-diversity/what-research)     
  Provide the review committee with insight into what motivates you.
* Proofread, proofread, proofread! Check for grammar, clarity, spelling, etc. Use spell check in word, Grammarly, read it from the bottom up, and/or ask someone to review.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION: MUST BE UPLOADED TO YOUR ONLINE APPLICATION**

1. Update header to include your Last Name, First Name & CSULB ID#
2. You can delete all instructions prior to uploading to your application
3. Save this document (\*use the cloud so you do not lose it!) with the following format for file name: **Last Name, First Name\_ Statement**
4. Upload can be a PDF or Word document
5. Following a thorough proofread and spell check, upload it to your online application