**Statement of Professional Purpose**: Submit a statement informing the Admissions Committee of your strengths as a candidate in the teacher education program in the Urban Institute for Teacher Education at the University of Utah. Essays should be approximately two pages in length and may be double-spaced. Your essay will be evaluated on its content as well as your ability to convey your ideas in formal academic language using standard writing conventions. Use the following rubric to assist in writing your statement.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Criteria** | **INADEQUATE** | **ADEQUATE** |
| **Illustrate your commitment and passion to the teaching profession** | The writer does not provide an illustration of a commitment to teaching based on *relevant* past experiences working with youth and future goals for teaching in K-12 schools. The statement does not convey the writer’s passion to the teaching profession. | The writer provides an illustration of a commitment to teaching based on *relevant* past experiences working with youth and future goals for teaching in K-12 schools. The statement adequately conveys the writer’s passion to the teaching profession. |
| **Discuss your commitment to the mission of the Urban Institute for Teacher Education (UITE) with regard to diversity and multicultural education**  | The writer does not provide sufficient evidence of a commitment to the mission of the UITE and to issues related to diversity, including but not limited to language, culture, ability and does not address why the writer is committed to this mission.  | The writer provides sufficient evidence of a clear commitment to the mission of the Urban Institute of Teacher Education and to issues related to diversity in its varied forms, including but not limited to language, culture, and ability and addresses why the writer is committed to this mission. |
| **Demonstrate your ability to think deeply about and analyze contemporary educational issues**  | The writer does not provide evidence that the writer can think deeply about contemporary educational issues that affect youth in today’s society. | The writer provides clear evidence that the writer can think deeply about contemporary educational issues that affect youth in today’s society. |
| **Attend to the overall organization and flow of your statement and clarity of your writing** | The writer’s statement is generally unclear and/or not succinct and/or may be rambling and/or meaning is hidden and/or paragraphs poorly structured. No structure is used to convey ideas. | The writer’s statement is clear and succinct, and paragraphs are well organized. Meaning is clear to readers. The writer uses an appropriate structure to convey ideas. |
| **Attend to standard conventions of writing, including spelling, usage, punctuation and grammar** | The writer does not use standard conventions of writing or makes many errors in spelling, usage, punctuation or grammar. The writing piece does not look presentable.  | The writer uses all standard conventions or writing with few or no errors in spelling, usage, punctuation and grammar. The writing piece looks presentable. |
| **Use formal academic language rather than colloquial or informal conversation** | The writer uses conversational and/or colloquial language—use of contractions (isn’t, doesn’t, shouldn’t); and informal vocabulary terms such as “and so,” “like,” “get,” “very,” “of course,” “a lot,” “lots,” “good,” “really,” “kind of.” | The writer addresses the Admissions Committee and uses formal academic language throughout the statement. |