Writing the statement of purpose for your application to the Earth Systems Coterminal M.S. or M.A.

At its core, the statement of purpose should address why you wish to pursue a Master’s degree in Earth Systems. Statements of purpose typically range in length from 700-1000 words and should not exceed 2 pages. Although the list of questions below is not comprehensive, considering them as you draft your statement will help you reflect on your motivations and intentions for wanting to pursue a Master’s in Earth Systems and communicate this information to the graduate admissions committee.

- What is it that you want to gain mastery in? What specific content knowledge, intellectual frameworks, tools, or skills do wish to gain through your Master’s studies?
- Imagine yourself after having graduated with your Master’s: how would you describe your program of study, in succinct terms, to a colleague or a prospective employer or advisor?
- What is personally motivating you to pursue a Master’s in Earth Systems?
- How do you hope to apply what you learn after you graduate?
- What particularly excites you about the curriculum you’ve designed?
- What are some questions you hope to be able to answer through pursuing this degree?
- What is a significant personal or academic experience that has inspired you to want to pursue a Master’s degree in Earth Systems?
- Why Earth Systems? Why a Master’s in Earth Systems as opposed to a Master’s degree in another program?
- How will you contribute as a member of the Earth Systems community? What strengths will you bring as a member of the graduate student cohort?

For additional guidance on writing a statement of purpose, you may find the following resources helpful.

https://ocs.yale.edu/blog/2021/01/22/writing-personal-statements-for-graduate-school/

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/job_search_writing/preparing_an_application/writing_the_personal_statement/index.html