



CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF  
ARTS & TECHNOLOGY

## CIAT.edu Application – Statement of Purpose Requirements

All applicants entering a CIAT Certificate or Degree programs must submit a Statement of Purpose letter covering the topics outlined below. This step in the enrollment process is designed for us to learn more about you as an incoming student, identify ways to support you in our accelerated career-focused programs, and help you take the first steps in building your personalized career plan.

**Word requirements:** 250 – 500 words

**Questions:** Please address the following 5 topics in your Statement of Purpose letter

- **Technical skillset:** Starting or advancing your technical career starts with a personal assessment of your technical skill level. CIAT supports students at all levels (*from beginners in the field to working IT professionals advancing their careers*), so be honest about your strengths and weaknesses, so that we can match you with the right program.
- **Career plans:** Tell us about your career goals. Are you planning to start a new career or advance in the field or position you currently have? What skills, certifications, or experience do you need to reach this goal? If you're brand new to the tech field and don't know where to start, that's what we're here for. Be honest about what level of career planning support would help you be successful.
- **Overcoming challenges:** Committing to your education path takes dedication and commitment, but your time and energy investment will pay off. Tell us about a time where you've overcome a challenge (academic challenge, personal/family challenge, career challenge, etc.) and learned a valuable lesson.
- **Choosing CIAT:** We approach education differently. We believe your education should be centered around building confidence in your technical skills and helping you graduate ready to tackle the workforce. How is your CIAT program going to help you achieve your personal and career goals?
- **About You:** What else would you like us to know about you? Who is part of your support network as you pursue your education? Feel free to share details about yourself, your background, your family, your personal passion projects, or more. The more we know about you as an individual, the more we can support you.

### **Need help or feeling stuck?**

Ask your Admissions Advisor for any help you need throughout the application and enrollment process, we're here to support you.

Please check your essay for spelling and grammatical errors prior to submitting. The following resources may help you with proof-reading, formatting, or extra writing support.

### **Writing Resources:**

- *Grammarly* - this site is a great resource for checking your spelling and grammar: <https://www.grammarly.com/>
- *Purdue Owl Writing Lab*- this lab includes several resources to improve your essay writing: [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue\\_owl.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html)
- *Writing Rescue Guide* – Guidance for writing college application or scholarship essays: <https://www.affordablecollegesonline.org/college-resource-center/college-writing-guide/#College-Application-&-Scholarship-Essay-Writing>

## **CIAT Application Personal Statement [Sample] – John Doe**

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