



Guidelines for Writing Your BDP Application Essay

Please use the following guide to write a **2-3 page, double-spaced**, well-written essay that describes your intellectual goals for this BDP and how your work in the program will help you achieve them. Your essay should address all of the following questions. We strongly encourage you to have your essay reviewed by the University Writing Center prior to submission. Remember that a panel of UT faculty members whose research and teaching interests relate to your BDP topic will evaluate your application essay. You will submit your essay and complete your application online. Visit www.utexas.edu/ugs/bdp/prospective/apply.

How have your past experiences led to your interest in your BDP topic?

- Why are you interested in the BDP topic and, if applicable, your chosen strand?
- Describe your previous experiences with the BDP topic and, if applicable, your chosen strand. If prior coursework, internships, volunteer work or other experiences have influenced your interests, explain how.

Describe your current interests and learning goals related to your BDP topic.

- What do you hope to learn by participating in the BDP? What **topics or key questions** do you want to explore through your BDP work?
- If your BDP requires that you **choose a strand concentration**, which strand do you intend to pursue, and **why**?
- What will you gain from studying your BDP topic from a **variety of disciplinary perspectives**?
- Identify the **courses** you plan to take as part of your BDP. Explain what you hope to learn from these courses. Review course content online at <https://utdirect.utexas.edu/apps/student/coursedocs/nlogon>.
- Describe ideas for **research and internship Connecting Experiences** related to your BDP topic and, if applicable, your strand concentration. Refer to examples: www.utexas.edu/ugs/bdp/current/experiences.
 - For research experiences, discuss 1-2 ideas for research questions you would like to explore.
 - For internship experiences, identify 1-2 organizations for which you would like to intern and why.
 - Digital Arts & Media applicants ONLY, provide 1-2 ideas for the creative project requirement.

Explain how this BDP relates to your future goals.

- What are your future professional and/or personal goals, and how might your BDP coursework and Connecting Experiences help you achieve them?

Special Addenda (if applicable).

- If you are graduating within the next four semesters, attach a semester course planner (www.utexas.edu/ugs/bdp/prospective/apply) that outlines your plan for completing the BDP and your remaining degree requirements (summer courses should also be included). Please meet with your major academic advisor to review your academic plans prior to meeting with a BDP advisor.
- If your cumulative UT Austin GPA is in the 2.0-3.0 range, you will be required to submit a GPA statement. In this brief (1-2 paragraph) statement, please explain any extenuating circumstances regarding your grades and academic progress of which you wish to inform the faculty panel.