Office of Minority Recruitment & Retention

- The Office of Minority Recruitment & Retention (OMRR) provides a safe space for students of color, international students and all marginalized undergraduate and graduate students and their allies.

- We support students through the College of Education application process.

- We foster an educational and social learning environment for a welcoming and supportive climate.

- We engage the College of Education in building and maintaining meaningful relationships across the UW campuses and our local, regional, and national communities.
Checklist for Application Materials

- Checklist and guidelines for Application
  - GRE Scores
  - Report Prior Schools
  - Unofficial Transcripts
  - Statement of Purpose
  - Personal History Statement (optional)
  - Resume/CV
  - Letters of Recommendation
  - Application Fee (Fee waiver available if eligible)
The SoP: Opening

- Write in a Direct manner. No fluff
- Provide strong reasons why you are applying to the program.
- Provide personal reason(s) for your interest in the academic area.
The SoP: Background and Qualifications

- Highlight your experiences in and out of the classroom. Identify if you have connections to organizations: (i.e. College Success Foundation, Gates Scholars, etc.)

- Describe how your interest in the field developed; emphasize how specific educational, professional, and/or research experiences have inspired and motivated your desire to continue your study and/or research.

- How do your experiences and interests tie into the particular program or research of the faculty member?
The SoP: Explain your Academic Future at the COE – Answering the “Why’s”

- Explain why you wish to attend this particular program. Admission committees do not like to read general statements that can apply to any school.

- Convey evidence that you investigated the program, faculty and the department.

- Be genuine with your statement of purpose.

- Remember to thank the Committee for their time in reviewing your application.
Personal History Statement (optional)

- About your personal history, family background, and other influences on your intellectual development.

- The statement should address educational, cultural, and economic opportunities and disadvantages that you have experienced and overcome, respectively.

- Also explain how those experiences have affected the development of your special interests, career plans, and future goals.

- This is optional but we strongly encourage you to submit a personal history statement.
General Tips from Faculty

- Try to provide specific examples of your strengths in the statement of purpose.

- If there is a particularly low test score/academic grade or a concern you have about your ability, include the personal history statement explaining it.

- Talk with students in the program about what they have liked thus far and what questions they had when applying.

- Ask a professor if it is okay to sit in on a class for a day or attend a research group meeting. Learn as much as you can about what it is like to be in the program.
Funding Sources

- Graduate School Funding
- Graduate Opportunities & Minority Achievement Program (GO-MAP)
- COE Funding
- Graduate Funding Information System (GFIS)
- National Fellowships: Ford Foundation, National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program, etc.
Contact Information for Continued Support

- Office of Minority Recruitment & Retention (OMRR)
  - Ada Onyewuenyi, Ph.D. Student, Learning Sciences and Human Development
  - Christian Love, M.Ed. Student, Leadership in Higher Education
  - Michel Riquelme Sanderson, Ph.D. Student, Curriculum & Instruction, Language Literacy and Culture
  - omrr@uw.edu
  - (206) 543-1821

- Office of Student Services (OSS)
  - Norah Fisher, norahf@uw.edu, (206) 221-1870
  - edinfo@uw.edu
QUESTIONS?
Small Group or One-on-One Breakouts to Work on Statements of Purpose