

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for placing your order with Ivy Writing. You have a compelling application and research experience, strengths that will clearly be an advantage when applying to graduate schools.

In this document you will find three the standard 3 components of our essay editing service: first, a discussion of some of the strengths and weaknesses of your statement of purpose, organized by theme; second, your original essay with comments in the margin (using Microsoft Word's "Track Changes" feature); and finally, a revised version of your essay.

As you will see, I have left bracketed spaces where you can add details to your statement that will strengthen your essay. I highly recommend that you send the essay for a second revision so that we can perfect your final statement. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any question on the editing.

All the best,
Marcus Kubicek

General Comments

Overall your essay presents yourself well, and you are clearly a good candidate for graduate studies. I would, however, make these general comments:

More Specific Details on U of Minnesota

All graduate schools want you to answer this question:

- Why would you attend our school instead of any other school?

You would do best in identifying two or three faculty you would like to work with, especially since you are pursuing a PhD program that requires a lot of research under a mentor. If you don't, the school will not think you are committed to their institution and haven't done your research, and they are less likely to accept you.

Unclear Research Explanation

Your research experience is currently unclear. You need to follow this general outline:

- Background of project and what you plan to do
- Importance of project
- Brief technical details of what you did
- Eventual result of the project

Giving an explanation like this shows that you have a clear idea of what you are doing, can work independently, and are focused in your research. Please discuss this in the revised version.

As the 13th top student in our graduating class of 148 students, I am a dynamic person with strong interests in a broad range of topics in the field of chemical engineering. My goal is to pursue a Ph.D. in the department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science at the University of Minnesota, where I expect to receive the best training and preparation for a future career.

Comment [AC1]: You should avoid starting your statement with a boast to yourself. It might come across poorly to a reader who expects you to be humble.

Through out my years in undergraduate school, I have committed myself to studying theories of chemical engineering very hard and performed a GPA of 3.92 in all my subject classes. I have strongly show my great potential in my academic performance and also show that I have the ability to demanding myself to pursue excellence. Believing that successful research usually relies on abilities to integrate knowledge and resources from different areas, I took a wide variety of courses in hopes to build a solid foundation for this diverse research field.

Comment [AC2]: We should also include a sentence on your long-term goals – for instance, do you plan to work in academia or industry, and in which field?

Comment [AC3]: Unlike in Taiwan, in the United States grades are not as important to show that you are qualified. Mainly they are interested in what work you have done outside of the classroom, especially in research. Furthermore, they can see your GPA and coursework on your transcript, so you should devote this statement to things they cannot see in the rest of your application.

Since I was in my elementary school, I have found that I have great interests in doing experiments. After I entered the National Taiwan University, the best university of Taiwan, the abundant research sources and laboratory equipment make me even more fascinated with doing studies. Luckily, in my junior year of university I had a chance to join the Membrane Separation Laboratory to cultivate my research abilities. I cooperate with graduate students there to study the membrane synthesis mechanism of PMMA (poly(methymathacrylate)) and factors that determine the structures such as bicontinuous and macrovoids of the membrane of PMMA. Furthermore, I got the opportunity to participating in the National Science Council undergraduate student's research project which is supervised by Prof. Da-Ming Wang. The main goal of the project is to find out relationship between solvent and the effect of mass transfer in the synthesis of membrane of PMMA. Furthermore, I would like to discuss the effect of viscosity and elasticity on the structure of PMMA membrane. During my life in the lab, I have learned a lot of things about research, such as how to find appropriate papers in related areas, how to record experimental data systematically, and how to operate some instruments like rheology meter. What's more, I have cultivated a tough attitude toward difficult things. Doing researches is not an easy task, especially in rarely known areas; however, I strongly believe that I have enough abilities to promote the pioneering researches.

Comment [AC4]: Again, you should avoid complimenting yourself too explicitly. These readers likely read a lot of applications and don't need a reminder that NTU is the best university in Taiwan.

Comment [AC5]: What is the significance of this research? Will PMMA be useful in drug delivery or any other applications? As you have seen in my letter, a research explanation should be well structured and comprehensive in detail.

Comment [AC6]: This paragraph is too long – we need to split it in half, probably here. Long paragraphs are difficult to read and can be a struggle for the reader.

Comment [AC7]: Good – perseverance is a necessary trait in graduate students.

During my undergraduate project, I found that the research in polymer is not only full of challenge but also rewarding. Although it requires a lot of efforts to do experiments, I am still doing the project energetically because I find in the progress interesting and things are paying off since now I am capable of making a PMMA membrane with bicontinuous structure. With the technical abilities on doing researches, I strengthened my research ability by attending a class of Polymer Chemistry and I learned much theoretical knowledge about polymer as well. In addition, I am planning to take more courses such as Polymer Physics to complete my program on polymer.

Comment [AC8]: Good – we should expand on this and talk about the intersection between theoretical work in class and research work in the real world.

Beside polymer, I also have strong interests in bioengineering. In the course of "Introduction to Biomedical Engineering", I got a basic glimpse of a field where bioengineering and materials combine, such as biomaterials, biomedical engineering,

biopolymer and so on, which stimulate my desire to do further research in the field. In addition, I am now taking classes concerning biochemistry this semester to increase my knowledge about biology. In the future, I would like to devote myself to the research and development of bioengineering and polymer. Ultimately, I aim for applying my research results and experiences to industrial practices for the benefits of the society.

Comment [AC9]: Are there specific examples of applications that interested you? We want to avoid being vague in these statements.

Aside from focusing on my academic performances, my colorful extracurricular lives demonstrate some key qualities that I can contribute to my graduate studies. I attended a baking club in NTU and I had also been the leader in our basketball team. The communication skill and leadership based on my active participation in my extracurriculum activities show that I have the ability to get along well with my companions in the future. As a person who knows well how to incorporate various ideas to a whole picture and delegate tasks to team members, I believe I am the perfect one fit into your university.

Comment [AC10]: Simply attending a club does not show that you were a key member of the club- we can emphasize your involvement here.

During my years in university, I have undergone various experiences which prove that I possess the adequate research abilities, along with the proper personal qualities and propelling interests to pursue my doctorate at the University of Minnesota. I believe that I am ready and well-prepared to attend your graduate school.

Comment [AC11]: We should also relate this to your career and how it will help in science – namely, being able to work in a research team and contribute as a leader and a team member.

Comment [AC12]: We are missing here a lot on why you are specifically attracted to U of Minnesota as opposed to any other graduate school. This is one of the most important areas in your statement.

My goal is to pursue a Ph.D. in the department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science at the University of Minnesota. Through my coursework and research experiences in chemical engineering, I feel I am well-qualified to conduct graduate study. My long-term goal is to **[insert career goal here]**, and graduate study will be the best preparation for me to reach my goals.

I studied chemical engineering at National Taiwan University (NTU), where I undertook a rigorous course load and established a broad base of knowledge in many different fields. I believe that successful research usually relies on abilities to integrate this sort of expansive knowledge, and I thoroughly enjoyed learning in these different contexts.

I quickly wanted to apply this theoretical knowledge to the laboratory. The best part of attending NTU was the abundant resources for conducting research, and in junior year I joined the Membrane Separation Laboratory. There I cooperated with graduate students to study the membrane synthesis mechanism of PMMA (poly(methyl methacrylate)) and factors that determine bicontinuous structures and macrovoids of the membrane of PMMA. **[insert more on the significance of this work and of PMMA. Also include your results, if applicable – e.g. I am able to make a PMMA membrane with bicontinuous structure]**

I followed this experience by joining Prof. Da-Ming Wang's group. I led an independent project to find the relationship between solvent and the effect of mass transfer in the synthesis of membrane of PMMA. I also studied the effect of viscosity and elasticity on the structure of PMMA membrane. **[insert more on the significance of this work, if different from that of the previous paragraph. Also include your results if applicable]**

These research experiences inspired me to pursue research as a career. I found that research in polymers is challenging and therefore rewarding. Making progress and persevering through temporary setbacks is continuously inspiring, and I have been able to pick up many technical and analytical skills by working in a research environment. I also observed the great interplay between theoretical concepts gained in the classroom and applications in the lab.

Beside polymer science, I also have strong interests in bioengineering. In coursework I got a basic glimpse of a field where bioengineering and materials combine. **[include specific examples of things that inspired you]** These applications inspire me to combine my interest in polymers with my interest in helping humanity. In the future, I would like to devote myself to the research and development of bioengineering polymer for biomedical applications.

In addition to my academic experiences, my extracurricular life demonstrates key qualities that will contribute to my graduate studies. At NTU I was a core member of a baking club and a leader in our basketball team. In these groups I developed communication and leadership skills and helped guide the growth of the organizations. I also learned to develop and act on novel ideas, and to delegate tasks to other team

members. These skills will be important in a future research career, especially in the increasingly interdisciplinary age of science.

I believe graduate education is the ideal preparation for my career. I am attracted to University of Minnesota because of **[insert some reasons on why you would want to attend this school]**. I am particularly interested in the work of **[insert two or three professors and their research fields]**. I am confident that the research interests of the department will overlap closely with mine, and that I will be able to pursue a highly rewarding education.

In summary, I believe I am strongly qualified to pursue my doctorate at the University of Minnesota. During my years at NTU, I have developed research abilities, along with proper personal qualities and propelling interests. I believe that I am ready and well-prepared to attend your graduate school. U of Minnesota would be an exciting place to begin my career.