Guidance on Writing a “Statement of Purpose” for Graduate Admissions

When writing a “Statement of Purpose” for graduate school admissions, it is important to be informative and to keep the statement between one to two pages. You want to capture the Admissions Committee attention by including the following points in your statement.

- Your background
- Your experiences as an undergraduate and through internships
- Your research interests
- Your research experiences and abilities (how have you started to prepare yourself for research)
- Your leadership abilities and experiences
- Your education and career goals (reason for pursuing a graduate degree in computer science) – inform the committee if you want to pursue an MS, MCS, or Ph.D. and why
- Your attraction to completing a degree at that institution

An Admissions Committee will usually evaluate your “Statement of Purpose” for your conciseness, scientific research interests, leadership skills, and eloquence. Therefore, after you have a draft of your “Statement of Purpose” complete, you may want to have a current graduate student or a faculty member review it and provide you feedback prior to submitting it with your application. Seeking input from those who have already been through the admission process is always a good idea. They can provide you with some excellent feedback, share their admissions experience with you, and provide you with guidance through the admissions process. In addition to seeking feedback from current graduate students and faculty, you can visit the website below.

- http://www.careercenter.uiuc.edu/resources/grad_res.asp
- http://www.wikihow.com/Write-a-Statement-of-Purpose
- http://www.accepted.com/grad/personalstatement.aspx (some services are not free on this site)
- http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/gcallaghan/graduate/winningstatement.htm
- https://career.berkeley.edu/Grad/GradStatement.stm

Website to Access PowerPoint

https://agora.cs.illinois.edu/display/grad/Graduate+Programs (go down to “Prospective Student Information” and click on the “Current CS Undergrad Grad College Seminar”)