

Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications Graduate Student Applicants' Writing Sample Requirements

The ALEC graduate program requires writing samples in place of the traditional GRE writing requirement. Students seeking admissions to an ALEC graduate program are required to submit writing sample(s) congruent with the requirements of the individual graduate program track they seek. The writing sample(s) should be submitted as part of the graduate admissions application within the TAMU GraduateCas portal. The graduate admissions committee will evaluate the writing samples using established rubrics, which students should consider when developing their writing sample(s). Additionally, the statement of purpose (~2 pages) **is not** a writing sample, but the rubric may serve as a guide to developing that statement.

Master of Agriculture, Master of Science (Non-thesis option), Master of Applied Youth Development Applicants:

1. Select a workshop topic to be delivered to a specific audience. Create a one-page, single-spaced summary of the workshop including an overview of the topic, a description of the audience, and an explanation of why you selected the topic. Develop a one-page, single-spaced, sentence outline of the presentation content to be shared with the audience. Provide a list of references you would access to create the workshop (a minimum of 10 peer-reviewed references). **Your writing sample should be three pages: summary page, outline, and references.** Your submission will be scored for content/information, structure, grammar/mechanics, and language usage, using the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.) as the official style manual.

Master of Science (Thesis option) Applicants:

1. Select one journal article by an ALEC faculty member as the lead author. Provide a critical analysis of the selected article. The article must have been published within the last five years. The critical **analysis must include (at a minimum): introduction, method, results/findings, and discussion/conclusions.** Additionally, within the critical analysis, you should summarize the study; describe the study's importance (impact) to the academic discipline, and/or its impact on the industry and/or the public it represents; and reflect on and explain how the study applies to your research interests. Your analysis should be 3 to 5 pages, single-spaced with one-inch margins and 12-point font. Your critical analysis will be scored for content/information, structure, grammar/mechanics, and language usage, using the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.) as the official style manual. Preference is to select a faculty member with your same area of interest.

Doctoral Program Applicants:

1. Complete the same writing requirement listed for Master of Science (Thesis option) applicants (i.e., a critical analysis of an ALEC faculty member's published journal article within the last five years). Preference is to select a faculty member with your same area of interest.
2. Submit one previous publication (conference abstract, journal article, etc.).
3. Select a topic related to your research interests. Write a position paper with at least 10 academic/research journal article references. The position paper should be three pages, double-spaced with one-inch margins and 12-point font. The position paper will be scored for content/ information, structure, grammar/mechanics, and language usage, using the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.) as the official style manual.

Journal article information for each faculty member may be accessed by browsing Google Scholar, <https://scholar.google.com>. Additional information may be obtained by accessing the department faculty website (<https://alec.tamu.edu/types/faculty/>) and reviewing individual faculty profiles for publication information or their CVs.