

## Stanford EdCareers: Compass Exercise for Incoming & Current Students

**NOTE:** A completed compass exercise is required for EdCareers coaching appointments and will help us make the most of our 30-minute appointment together. Please upload your completed compass via [this google form](#) at least 48 hours before your appointment.

### Creating Your Compass

It is possible to spend your graduate studies at Stanford learning new concepts, meeting phenomenal individuals, and leaving here wondering how all of this will impact your career. A little time invested into reflecting on how you will use this time to move your larger career goals forward can be incredibly valuable. The purpose of this exercise is to help you project a path towards your goals. This path will undoubtedly need to be altered but having a pre-existing plan to alter will help you be more intentional about your choices.

In no more than three pages, please address each of these areas:

#### Your Past Trajectory

In 3-5 lines outline the path that brings you here today. Feel free to include pivotal personal or professional moments. Complete sentences are not necessary. Include any interests or burning questions you may have.

#### Samples:

*Illinois native > BA in English from Duke > rode my bicycle across South America with a couple friends > started teaching at low-income charter School, had previously fallen in love with the school while tutoring as an undergrad > taught four years in 4th/5th grade > lead teacher > worked with Uncommon Schools management on implementation of The College Ready Promise, a teacher effectiveness system funded by the Gates Foundation > interested in what motivates teachers and ways to appropriately measure their efficacy.*

*Small town first generation college student > Admission Office Work Study @ Boston Univ. >Admissions as career possibility? Admission Rep at Small Liberal Arts College in MN > increased responsibility, new projects, challenges and ways to grow >I've become a great 'do-er' but now I seek the theory, development and education to further not only my career, but also clarify my own aspirations and possible career path. Is Admissions where I should anchor my career or is there some other higher ed field that I should explore next?*

#### Your Career Aspirations

In 2-5 paragraphs, outline your career aspirations. This can be as broad, narrow or bifurcated as it currently stands in your mind. If you have several careers you aspire towards, focus on two that seem most pressing. Why are these your aspirations and what do you want to accomplish in the larger landscape of education?

#### Your Goals for This Year

Given where you have been and what you hope to accomplish, what are the 2-4 goals you intend to achieve within your graduate program this year? How can your courses selections, extracurriculars, internships, informational interviews, etc., each strategically move one or more of these goals forward?

Feel free to use paragraphs, bullets, graphics, tables, etc. to think through this exercise in a way that is useful to you. The goal is to clearly convey your grad school and career goals and how you will achieve them.