**Optional: Statement of academic purpose (500 to 750 words)**  
This information is not required. However, if you feel it important to provide a statement of academic purpose to support your candidacy, you may submit one. The statement of academic purpose should address the following:

* The subjects and course topics to intend to study
* Why you feel you are prepared for rigorous academic study at Columbia – for this you may highlight prior coursework completed, work projects and/or your employment history
* How the program fits into your overall academic and/or professional goals
* An explanation for any weaknesses that may appear on your academic transcript or a highlight of any strengths that may not be evident elsewhere (as appropriate)