

CS 4801 Assignment 1

Due 26 February 2003

Gathering ideas and background for your statement of purpose

You should hand in a professionally appearing document of 2 to 3 pages, with separate sections addressing each question. Your grade will depend partly on the quality of your writing (how much energy and care you put into it), and partly on how complete and thorough you are. Address each of these topics:

- Why do you want to go to graduate school?
- What do you want to study (one or two possible areas)?
- What knowledge or background do you have in these (this) area(s)? If you do not have a background in this area, why are you interested in it?
- What makes you think you would be good at research or study of this area?
- What are the best schools in this area? Possible sources of information: US News and World Report university rankings, professors you know who work in this area, graduate students.
- Choose one of these schools, then find two or three professors who do research in this area. Which would you want to work with and why?