MAJOR REASONS APPLICANTS ARE REJECTED

- Long, rambling essays that are usually off topic

- Essays don’t demonstrate necessary experience in areas of research, community service, diversity, interest in teaching, etc.

- Research interests are described too generally or not described at all.

- Applicants’ education and experience do not match the discipline they want to pursue in doctoral studies.

- Poor writing skills (i.e. grammar, syntax, spelling errors, etc.)

- Applications are incomplete and may be missing statements, faculty signatures, faculty recommendation letters, transcripts, budget, etc.

- Low GPAs that are not explained by faculty mentor.

- Activity plan and budget don’t correlate; budget exceeds $3,000; inappropriate activities/expenditures such as international travel or purchase of major computer hardware components.

- Applicants do not meet qualifications to apply (must be junior, senior, master’s degree student at time of application and award).

- Overkill on the ‘poor me’ syndrome.