



Personal Statement Instructions

Instructions: Create a personal statement document covering all of the sections and questions below. Write the document in a way that will help the review committee understand more about you and why this advanced social work career is important to you.

Format: There are four sections of the document.

- Separate these sections as headings in your document. In each section, fully answer all questions asked using paragraph format. Word count: 100-150 minimum words per section.
- Format your document double-spaced, with Times New Roman font size 12, and 1 inch margins.

Introduction

- Share with us how you become interested in social work as a profession?
- Discuss any experience you have had with the social work profession (list both paid and voluntary examples)

Professional strengths for Social Work practice

- Describe 2-3 strengths that you believe you bring to becoming a social work professional.
- Discuss 1-2 challenges you might have professionally (i.e., professional areas for growth).

Reflection on Self and Social Work Values

It is important for social workers to demonstrate the core values of the social work profession. These include service, social justice, dignity and worth of the individual, importance of human relationships, integrity and competence. Please visit the NASW Code of Ethics for definitions of these areas:

<https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-English>

- Explain how these values inspire your work with people in general and people who are different than you in terms of religion, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, age, etc.
- Describe 1 or 2 groups of people, or types of struggles people have, that you might have difficulty serving.

Commitment to Graduate Education

Graduate school is an intensive learning experience and requires a large amount of time. In addition to course work, students are required to complete field education hours (400 hours for foundation year, 500 hours in the advanced year).

- Describe your plan for how will you adapt your life to accommodate for course load expectations and field education hours for graduate school, considering your life commitments (family, work, self-care, etc.).
- Please list examples of what systems you already have in place to ensure success in graduate school.

**Only address if applicable. If your undergraduate GPA does not meet minimum standards for admission, indicate special circumstances that should be considered in determining admission to the program. How will your performance in graduate school be different than your undergraduate education?*