

Guidelines for Writing the Personal Statement

The faculty of the School of Social Work have the responsibility of evaluating your application. You will be submitting a variety of evidence concerning your ability to undertake a graduate program in social work. An important component in your application is the content of your personal statement. Use the outline that follows to complete your personal statement. (All items must be addressed.)

A. The Profession of Social Work as a Career Goal.

- i. Why does social work appeal to you?
- ii. What particular aspects or special fields of social work interest you most?
- iii. What contributions will you make to the school and to your fellow students?
- iv. Why are you seeking professional education at this time?
- v. What are your career goals in social work for the five years following graduation?

B. Experience as a Student

- i. How do you expect your performance in graduate school to compare with your performance as an undergraduate student?
- ii. Give reasons for any differences you may anticipate.
- iii. If you have ever received failing grades, been on probation, or been dismissed from or denied readmission to any college, explain. Be specific.

C. Work Experience

- i. Describe any social work experience in which you were supervised by an MSW professional.
- ii. With what social problems, ethnic groups, clients, types of agencies, or systems have you had experience?
- iii. Give an example of a work-related problem you experienced and how you were able to resolve it.

D. Other Experience

- i. Describe your experience/participation in school and community activities.
- ii. Describe your experience in the helping role, such as family or other social or work experiences, in which you gave or received help.

E. Other Commitments

i. Describe any anticipated work or community commitments that bear on the time demands of a graduate program that includes class and field instruction.

F. Miscellaneous

i. What information or experience influenced your choice in making an application to this school?

ii. If you have been dismissed or been asked to resign from a position as a result of an infraction and/or convicted of an assault or a felony, discuss each situation in detail, focusing on how you overcame it and the relevance it has to your desire to become a social worker.

iii. Discuss examples of your ability to express yourself orally.

iv. What languages other than English do you know sufficiently well to use in a field instruction assignment?