



BSW Application

Personal Statement Essay Guideline

Use the following outline to write a personal statement and include this completed document when you submit your application. Personal statements must be typed in APA format with a title page (no abstract required). The completed statement is to be 900-1200 words total. The underlined words below should be used as headings in your personal statement.

1. Briefly summarize your personal background, including (at your discretion) your family background, significant life experiences, special interests, achievements, etc. (Please limit to 1-2 paragraphs).
2. Describe your human service activity hours (or social justice experience), both paid and volunteer. Identify your personal strengths or assets you brought to this experience. What did you gain from the experience? Were there any concerns you had about the experience? (Be sure to upload the completed human service activity forms to your completed application).
3. Describe what you consider to be one of the most pressing social problems that concerns you. What have you learned from your social work courses about this problem? Describe how you could address this problem as a social worker.
4. Based upon your self-assessment, address the following areas of professional development. Identify at least three personal attributes that might detract from your ability to be a professional social worker and your plan for strengthening these areas (be specific). Identify at least three personal characteristics and strengths that contribute to your ability to be a professional social worker.
5. What are your immediate and long term professional and educational goals?
6. Additional Information. Please add any other information you believe is relevant to this application, which would support your application, or which you think is important for the BSW faculty to consider, including any special needs, experiences, concerns, requests, and so on.