2015 Undergraduate Social Work Application

Personal Statement

Each applicant is asked to complete a personal statement following the guidelines below. The composition and content of the personal statement is a critical element in the review of your qualifications.

Your statement should be a maximum of four (4) pages, typed, double-spaced, and in 12 point font. It is recommended that you allow for one page per question.

1. Describe influences in your life (positive or negative) which have helped shape your interest in social work.

2. Social work is a profession that seeks to enhance human wellbeing and meet the basic needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty.

   Considering this statement, provide examples of personal strengths which you consider most pertinent to social work practice. In addition to your strengths, discuss limitations you need to work on in order to be successful in the professional practice of social work. How do you plan to address these limitations?

3. Discuss your work and/or volunteer experiences related to social work. How have these experiences helped affirm your interest in social work? What did you learn from these experiences? What challenges did you encounter?

4. Social work students typically enroll in a minimum of five courses per semester and must successfully complete a 420 clock-hour field placement during Autumn and Spring semester of the senior year (15 hours per week at a social service agency during regular business hours). Considering these expectations, please provide an example of your ability to effectively organize and manage time, meet deadlines, and work under pressure.