

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 five (5) pages, typed, double-spaced, and in 12 point font. **Please use the question number and its associated subheading when responding to each question.**

1. Motivation for Social Work

- a. How have experiences, relationships, and culture shaped you as a person and influenced your decision to pursue social work?

2. Student Organization, Volunteer, or Work Experience Related to Social Work

- a. Discuss your student organization, volunteer, and work experiences.
- b. What skills have you developed from these experiences that will translate to the social work profession?
- c. If you have limited volunteer or work experience, how might you gain social work-related experience that will help you prepare for your field placement?

3. Conflict Resolution

- a. As a social worker, you will have to address conflict. Which of the five conflict resolution styles best describes you?
 1. Accommodating: giving others what they want/keeping the peace
 2. Avoiding: delaying or ignoring the conflict and hoping the problem resolves itself
 3. Collaborating: attempting to work with others to identify a solution that fully satisfies everyone's concerns
 4. Compromising: each side gives up elements of their position to find a solution that partially satisfies both parties
 5. Competing: one side wins and the other side loses
- b. Reflect on a specific experience that required you to address conflict. How did you manage it and what was the outcome?
- c. Reflect on how your conflict resolution style will impact your behavior in the social work classroom?

4. Diversity/Social Justice

- a. Choose and reflect on one of the following quotes:
 - "Differences challenge assumptions."
 - "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."
- b. How will you reconcile and manage the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse clients?