

MSW Program Application – Essays

Two essays must accompany your application. Each essay should be no longer than three double spaced typewritten pages. These essays are weighted heavily in admissions decisions and are evaluated for substance, structure, and writing mechanics.

**Essay #1: Experience & Career Goals**

Describe your motivation to become a graduate-level social worker. Specifically address each of the following:

1. What significant life experiences have influenced your decision to become a social worker?
2. How will an MSW help you achieve your short-term goals?
3. How will an MSW help you achieve your long-term goals?
4. How do you plan to manage the demands of coursework, field responsibilities, and personal responsibilities? Specifically, what barriers do you anticipate encountering and how will you manage these barriers?

**Essay #2: Oppression and Discrimination**

Drawing on academic literature (peer reviewed journal articles, academic texts, etc.) and using a minimum of three (3) sources, address the problem of oppression and discrimination in our society.

1. Describe your understanding of the causes and consequences of oppression and discrimination.
2. Discuss values you hold that will assist you in working with people of diverse backgrounds.
3. Discuss your biases and prejudices:

a. Explain how you tried to overcome them.

b. Explain any issues regarding diversity that still need your attention.

1. (**Students with a BSW applying for Advanced Standing**): In addition to replying to questions 1-3, how has content learned through your undergraduate diversity course enhanced your awareness about oppression and discrimination? How has this awareness influenced your social work practice (your behavior at practicum or place of employment)?

Be sure to cite your sources using an APA or MLA referencing format.