

UNCP MSW Program Directions for Application Essay

The required essay should be thoughtful, address both of the topics described below, and demonstrate your ability to write at a level appropriate for graduate work. The essay must be double-spaced, type written or printed from a word processing program, and meet the specified page limits.

Your essay should coherently incorporate both of these elements, with approximately half of the text allocated to each area.

I. Autobiographical Statement (2-3 pages)

Write an autobiographical statement explaining why you would like to be a social worker. Social Work practice is concerned with behavior in the context of the social environment. Your response could reflect important family and community influences, as well as a description of characteristics that distinguish you as a potential candidate for the Master of Social Work degree. Those reviewing your essay are interested in evidence of your:

- Commitment to social justice
- Leadership abilities
- Notable achievements/accomplishments (academic work or volunteer)
- Perseverance in the face of adversity, oppression, socio-economic disadvantage, and /or discrimination
- Significant experience in diverse communities
- Bilingual skills (including ASL)
- Disadvantaged background

It is important to show how you have grown from these experiences, what you have learned and how these experiences will affect your approach to your social work education and practice. Comment on the factors which led to your choice of social work education and why are you making this choice at this time. Please discuss your career goals and what you expect to be doing in five years and ten years.

II. Social Problem (2-3 pages)

Describe a social problem that you consider to be significant. Please discuss it with regard to the following four areas:

1. What are the societal contributions to the origin and maintenance of this problem?
2. Why, in your opinion, does this problem deserve public attention and resources?
3. If relevant, include any personal experiences that have contributed to your identification with and understanding of the problem.
4. Describe possible ways of addressing the problem, including leadership roles you might undertake.