

Below are the guidelines for composing the personal statement required for all MSW applicants. The personal statement is an opportunity for you to highlight your preparation to enter a graduate program, but also for us to get to know you. The personal statement should be roughly 3-5 pages, written in 12pt Times New Roman, double-spaced, with one-inch margin.

## **Traditional (Non-Advanced Standing) Statement of Purpose**

Your statement is very important. The content and writing quality allows reviewers to:

- Gain a sense of who you are as an individual, as well as what led you to choose a career in social work;
- Determine the extent to which you are prepared and motivated for graduate education in social work;
- Assess how your experiences, social work and non-social work related, have prepared you for graduate studies in social work.
- Understand why you chose to apply to the UW-Whitewater School of Social Work; and,
- Recognize the challenges you may face in completing your degree and your ability to address them.

In your statement, be sure to address fully each of the following bullet points/questions:

- Explain why you want to get your graduate degree and pursue a career in social work.
- How do your career goals in social work align with the UW-Whitewater MSW Program?
- Which area of social work are you planning to pursue? Please explain why (i.e., mental health, substance use, advanced generalist, school social work, macro/policy practice, physical disabilities, aging/gerontology, etc.)
- Describe your past and current volunteer or internship experiences and how they prepared you for graduate studies in social work.
- Explain how your past and current coursework in social work and other disciplines, employment, and/or other experiences have prepared you for graduate studies in social work.
- The NASW Code of Ethics calls on social workers to continuously enhance their knowledge and skills through lifelong learning to appropriately engage with and serve clients from varied backgrounds. Discuss how your knowledge, views, and/or lived experiences will inform your practice as a social worker.
- Professional social workers pursue social change, particularly with and on behalf of vulnerable and oppressed individuals and groups of people with the ultimate goal of promoting social justice (NASW Code of Ethics, 2021). Please describe what social justice means to you.

# Advanced Generalist Standing Statement of Purpose

Your statement is very important. The content and writing quality allows reviewers to:

- Gain a sense of who you are as an individual, as well as what led you to choose a career in social work;
- Determine the extent to which you are prepared and motivated for graduate education in social work;
- Assess how your experiences, social work and non-social work related, have prepared you for graduate studies in social work.
- Understand why you chose to apply to the UW-Whitewater School of Social Work; and,
- Recognize the challenges you may face in completing your degree and your ability to address them.

In your statement, be sure to address full each of the following questions:

- Explain why you want to get your graduate degree and pursue a career in social work.
- How do your career goals in social work align with the UW-Whitewater MSW Program?
- Which area of social work are you planning to pursue? Please explain why (i.e., mental health, substance use, advanced generalist, school social work, macro/policy practice, physical disabilities, aging/gerontology, etc.)
- How have your past and current volunteer, internship, fieldwork, coursework in social work and other disciplines, employment, and/or other experiences prepared you for graduate studies in social work?
- The NASW Code of Ethics calls on social workers to continuously enhance their knowledge and skills through lifelong learning to appropriately engage with and serve clients from varied backgrounds. Discuss how your knowledge, views, and/or lived experiences will inform your practice as a social worker.
- Professional social workers pursue social change, particularly with and on behalf of vulnerable and oppressed individuals and groups of people with the ultimate goal of promoting social justice (NASW Code of Ethics, 2021). Please describe what social justice means to you.
- If you received a BSW more than 5 years ago, explain how you have been staying informed and current with the latest information in social work profession.
- Format: 12pt Times New Roman, double-spaced, with one-inch margin, and about 3 pages.