

MSW Application Personal Narrative Essay Instructions

The purpose of this section of the application is two-fold: to provide you with the opportunity to demonstrate your writing ability and to tell us more about yourself and what brought you to social work. Through the personal narrative, you will have an opportunity to describe your interest and motivation for becoming a professional social worker as well as your willingness to engage with the concepts and guiding principles associated with the profession.

Please use a single document to submit this portion of your application. The response to each question may be approximately 1 to 2 pages in length, but may be more as long as the response to all questions does not exceed a total of 6 pages (not including the title page and/or citation pages). The personal narrative essays should be constructed according to [APA format](#), which includes the following:

- A title/cover page for the narrative portion of the application.
 - Include your Application ID number shown at the top of this page.
 - Do NOT include your first or last name anywhere in the personal narrative.
- A section header for each question.
 - Include the actual question as the section header
- Fundamental structural rules of APA, including:
 - 12 point, Times New Roman font
 - 1-inch margins
 - Double-spacing
 - In-text citations and references in proper APA style (We strongly suggest that applicants use citations)
- Thorough review and editing of your work before submission. Read each question carefully before you begin writing. Be sure that you respond to all dimensions of each question.

Submit your Personal Narrative essay responses as a PDF document with the following filename: "your application ID -- Personal Narrative" (e.g., "405916397 -- Personal Narrative").

- 1) We are interested in knowing why you want to be a social worker. Describe your interest, motivation, and preparation for graduate study in social work. How has your coursework and/or life experiences motivated you to pursue a career in social work? What are your future career goals in the profession of social work (be sure to identify the specialization you find most interesting at this time)?

At the School of Social Work, we are committed to addressing Power and Oppression, promoting Social Justice, using Evidence-based practice, Advocacy, and celebrating Diversity, concepts we summarize with the acronym [PrOSEAD](#) (pronounced “proceed”). We are also guided by the [NASW Code of Ethics](#). Using these frameworks, please answer questions 2 and 3.

- 2) How will you use your MSW degree to pursue PrOSEAD, based on your career goals and intended specialization area?
- 3) In the profession of social work, we value the ability for helpers to be open to others and different perspectives. Tell us about a time when you were challenged to think differently. What did this experience change about you or how you approach people who are different than you?
- 4) Optional: Do you have any additional information, not shared elsewhere in this application that you would like for us to consider when reviewing your application?