



PERSONAL STATEMENT INSTRUCTIONS

The personal narrative is a critical part of your application. This is your opportunity to communicate and present yourself to the BSW Admissions Committee, who will be reviewing your application. Ensure that your statement clearly follows the instructions below, and that it provides the admissions committee with a comprehensive understanding of your interests, qualifications, and suitability for an education and career in professional social work.

Respond to the items listed below:

1. Describe the ways in which your life experiences, whether volunteer, employment, educational, and/or personal experiences, have led you to choose a major in social work.
2. Discuss your experiences with people from backgrounds different from your own in terms of culture, gender, social class, race, ethnicity, ability, religion, values and beliefs, etc.) and what you have learned from those experiences that may support your work with diverse client groups.

Guidelines:

- Should not exceed three (3) pages in length, but should be no less than one (1) full page in length.
- Formatting:
 - 12-point size
 - Times New Roman or Arial
 - double-spaced
 - 1-inch page margins
- Be sure to include your full name, the date, and the title “Personal Statement” at the top of your paper. You may also use page numbers if your personal statement exceeds one (1) full page.
- Applicants will be heavily evaluated on their proficiency in writing, including proper sentence structure, grammar, punctuation, and overall clarity and ability to effectively communicate ideas. If you are unsure of your paper or if you need additional assistance, PLEASE contact the [Center for Academic Excellence Writing Lab](#).