

02 March 2010

Social Work Entrance Essay

Living the Dream

There have been many life experiences which have led me to have a desire to be a social worker. For example, all of my life my parents have taught me the value of helping others. I grew up in an atmosphere where the needs of others were put before our own. My family's example has truly helped me to understand the importance of helping others. As a direct result of this example, for as long as I can remember I have had the desire to work in the social work field helping those truly in need. I first realized this desire when I was 12 years old. At that time my sister graduated from Utah State University with a major in Family Consumer and Human Development. After graduation, she found a job working as a social worker in northern Utah at Bear River Mental Health. During her time there she has shared many of the amazing experiences she has had helping people. I love these stories, and they have helped me develop a passion and a focus for my studies. Her excitement and dedication for the job has inspired me and helped strengthen my desire to become a social worker. That is why I have dedicated myself to doing whatever it takes to make this lifelong dream of mine a reality.

I believe that being a social worker requires many special skills that I feel I possess. One of these skills that I feel is important is that I am able to remain comfortable when presented with new or different facts and opinions. Between work, school, and even my social life I have had to interact with others that have different cultures as well as different values than me. It is necessary to be accepting of other cultures and not to discriminate against others. We are all human beings, and we all deserve the same respect. This ability is essential when in the field of social work because you are guaranteed to work with people who have different values as well as cultures and lifestyles.

Another special skill required of a social worker is to work toward goals even when challenges and roadblocks present themselves. This skill is necessary because challenges are most definitely going to present themselves with most situations. Therefore, the ability to work through adversity is the mark of a great social worker.

I am motivated to be a social worker because at my core I am interested in other people and their lives. I strive to understand and value their feelings and experiences. Throughout my life I have served others by understanding and addressing their needs. I have often been described as a people person and love interacting with others. All of these skills, and my life experiences, have prepared me to be a social worker because it is critical that a social worker understands and empathizes with their clients. Social workers must be understanding and start from where the client is. By making the client's goals the most important focus a social worker can help the client help themselves.

Another experience that has led me to social work is that all of my life I have had a special bond with children. There have been countless times when parents have brought their children into my place of work and the children have clung to me and followed me around. I have a soft spot for these young people, and this motivates me to want to help children in any way that I can. Because of this, working with children in foster care and adoption has always been a desire of mine. Children deserve to grow up in a structured home with people who love and care for them. How rewarding it would be to help place children in that kind of atmosphere! In addition to adoption, I also think that working as an elementary school social worker would be extremely rewarding. I desire to be the person that children turn to when they are in need, and I am confident that I can do the things necessary to ensure that they are having their needs met.

Throughout my academic career I have tried to prepare myself to be a social worker. As a student in intermediate school I was a member of the HECTORS club. This organization volunteered in different acts of service once a month. We would go to retirement homes and talk with the elderly, participate in planting flowers and trees hoping to make the school grounds prettier, and we were in charge of many recycling activities throughout the school. In addition to these service projects, I often visited nursing homes around northern Utah with friends spending time with the elderly. Throughout High School I continued to take every opportunity to serve others. I was a member of both the KEY club and National Honors Society where I participated in many service projects. I currently am a member of the National Association of Social Workers where I have had the opportunity to serve people throughout the valley. I have also found opportunities to serve others throughout my involvement with my church. I have had many rewarding experiences serving others and continue to have rewarding experiences to this day.

My greatest desire is to complete my education and enter into a career in the field of social work. I appreciate your consideration in helping me to achieve this goal.

Sincerely,

A thick, black horizontal bar used to redact the signature of the author.