



Master of Social Work Program

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Personal Statement

As part of your application for admission to the USU MSW program, please submit a Statement of Purpose that encapsulates your motivation in seeking an MSW. Your statement should demonstrate an ability to synthesize your professional/personal experiences and desire to enter the field of social work. Use the following questions as a guide to topics to address within the statement and not a format for your statement. Please limit your statement to five, double-spaced pages (1500 words). This statement will be used to assess your creativity, critical thinking, self-awareness and writing skills.

1. Describe how your relationships with parents, family, friends and significant others have influenced your decision to work with people. What significant experiences have you had in giving or receiving help that have motivated you to enter the field of social work? Describe times in your life where you have solved problems or struggled with issues; what impact have these experiences had in shaping your value base?
2. What do you consider to be personal qualities that equip you for graduate education and for the profession of social work (e.g., self-awareness, insight)?
3. Discuss your experiences, feelings and ideas about working with populations and settings different from your own.
4. What social service or social welfare areas interest you and why? Discuss your exposure to this field. What social problems exist in your own community that might be addressed with an advanced degree?
5. Why are you seeking graduate education at this time? Describe your career goals and how they evolved.
6. Discuss your undergraduate/graduate academic experience and include a description of your academic strengths and weaknesses. Please explain any grade deficiencies and what you have done to improve them.
7. Discuss your current personal situation, including any health conditions or physical limitations, as they relate to your participation in graduate study and field work.
8. Graduate education can be costly; it often means a change in one's current lifestyle. Do you anticipate any changes and how do you plan to prepare for them? What plans have you made to finance your education? If you have personal responsibilities, how do you plan to meet them?
9. Include your name, the date, and the words "MSW Program Personal Statement" at the top of the document.

This material is considered confidential and will be used for the purposes of rendering an admission decision and directing your educational experience.