

### **Personal Statement Essay**

There are three required components to the Personal Statement essay. Be certain to address all prompts under each component. Personal Statements that do not include responses to all required areas will not be reviewed. Include your responses to all components in a single, double-spaced document. Each response should be up to 2 double-spaced pages (6 double-spaced pages total). Ensure that you thoroughly proofread and edit your responses, as they should demonstrate your professional and graduate-level academic writing skills. Ensure to cite your sources properly. An additional reference page may be included.

### **Life Experiences**

Describe your motivation to become a graduate-level social worker. In your response, specifically address each of the following:

1. significant experience(s) that influenced your decision to enter the social work profession;
2. how obtaining your MSW degree will help you achieve your: (a) short-term goals, and (b) long-term goals; and
3. how you will manage the demands of course study and field responsibilities, including (a) specific barriers you anticipate, and (b) how you intend to manage those barriers. As you respond, please be aware that you are required to complete a portion of field hours during the M-F, 8-5 workday in order to receive adequate supervision. Be specific and detailed in your response.

### **Ethical Reflection**

Describe an ethical dilemma encountered in your personal or professional past. In your response, specifically address each of the following:

1. define the ethical problem, the parties involved, the values that informed your decisions, and how the conflict was resolved;
2. draw upon the NASW Code of Ethics as you describe this ethical problem (e.g. how the ethical problem or the response is reflected in the Code); and
3. explain how the outcome affected you, particularly any lessons you learned.

### **Social Problem Analysis and Professional Concepts**

Describe a social problem and discuss its relevance to the social work profession. In your response, specifically address each of the following:

1. discuss a social problem of importance to you, including causative factors and why this problem merits public attention and resources; and
2. explain how this social problem is related to the social work profession.
3. Students applying for advanced standing only: Please provide: (a) a definition of social work, and (b) propose a social work intervention (either through direct practice or policy) informed by the literature and/or practice, that directly addresses the problem. Discuss your rationale for the proposed intervention(s) and any leadership role you might undertake.