Requirements for Personal Statement – All MSW Programs for Admission 2026

Personal Statement

Please provide a personal statement, using the career in social work prompts listed below, to demonstrate your understanding of the profession and your understanding of social work values and ethics.

This paper should:

- Be limited to 1 to 2 pages (1-inch margins, double spaced,12pt font, page numbers at the bottom), No title page necessary.
- Include headings as appropriate.
- Reflect your original thoughts, ideas, and writing.
- Be written in total by you. No part of this original paper should have been used for another assignment, by written by any other person or by artificial intelligence.

Your writing will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Following Instructions**: Ensure that you adhere to the guidelines provided.
- **Understanding of the Social Work Profession**: Demonstrate a clear and accurate understanding of what social work entails.
- **Thoroughness and Organization**: Provide comprehensive and well-structured responses.
- **Evidence of Critical Thinking and Analysis**: Show your ability to think critically and analyze information effectively.
- **Grammar and Usage**: Ensure your writing is free from grammatical and usage errors.

Career in Social Work Prompts:
Examine your choice to pursue a career in social work as a thoughtful one based on reasonable knowledge of yourself and your chosen profession.

- What is your understanding of the social work profession? What makes the profession stand out from other helping professions?
- What are your reasons for choosing the social work profession? What has influenced your choice?
- How do NASW Professional Social Work Values fit your professional goals. See the excerpt from NASW Code of Ethics and the Arkansas Social Work Standards/Ethics in the instructions.
- What are your career goals? Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

Answer only if applicable to you.
Special Circumstances
Are there any special circumstances that have influenced your academic history and should be considered by the Admissions Committee?