

UNCP Master of Social Work (MSW) Program Application Essay Requirements

The essay should demonstrate the applicant's ability to thoroughly construct an argument, indicates the applicant's professional and academic goals, and reflects congruence with the values and ethics of professional social work practice as specified through the [National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics](#). The required essay should display a critical thought process, address both topics described below, and demonstrate the ability to write at a level appropriate for graduate work. The essay must be double-spaced, typewritten, and meet the specified page length. Any form of plagiarized work will not be accepted. The essay should coherently incorporate both of the elements below:

A. Autobiographical Statement (2-3 pages)

Write an autobiographical statement explaining why you would like to be a master's level social worker. Social work practice is concerned with behavior in the context of the social environment. Your response could integrate important family and community influences, as well as a description of characteristics that distinguish you as a potential candidate for the Master of Social Work degree. Those reviewing your essay are evaluating evidence of your:

1. Commitment to social justice
2. Leadership abilities
3. Notable achievements and accomplishments (academic work or volunteer)
4. Perseverance in the face of adversity, oppression, socioeconomic disadvantage
5. Significant experience in diverse communities
6. Bilingual skills (including American Sign Language)

It is important to communicate how you have developed as a result of these experiences, what knowledge you have gained, and how these experiences will affect your approach to your social work education and professional practice. Include comments on the factors that contributed to your choice of graduate level social work education and why you are making this choice at this time. Discuss your career goals and what you expect to be doing within five years and ten years.

B. Social Problem (2-3 pages)

Describe a social problem that you perceive as significant. Discuss it in relation to the following four areas:

1. Describe the societal contributions to the origin and maintenance of this problem.
2. Clearly discuss reasons this problem deserves public attention and resources.
3. If relevant, integrate any personal experiences that have contributed to your identification with and understanding of the problem.
4. Identify and explain possible methods of addressing the social problem, including social work leadership roles you might undertake.