

MSW APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Contents

Term..... 1

Personal Statement Requirements..... 1

Advanced Standing Essay (Summer applicants only)..... 2

 Individuals, Groups and Families 2

 Community Organizing & Policy Practice..... 2

Advanced Standing Application Evaluation 3

Three Professional Recommendations 3

 Advanced Standing Applicants..... 3

Term

Choose the term based on the program to which you are applying

Summer – Indicates application to the Advanced Standing program (applicants must have a BSW)

Fall or Spring – Indicates application to the Regular MSW program.

Personal Statement Requirements

The personal statement should be a 3-4 page, double-spaced, typewritten document that addresses the following points:

1. Describe how your interest in social work developed, and the philosophy upon which this interest is based. Include the influence of personal, professional and/or volunteer experiences on your interest in a social work career. We invite you to discuss aspects of your identities or experiences that may inform your interest in social work.
2. The NASW [Code of Ethics](#) includes six Values and Ethical Principles that must guide the practice of all social workers. Review these values and principles and discuss how they inform your educational and career goals, and any challenges you might expect in relation to these values and principles.
3. Your application is evaluated based on the concentration that you select in your application. (*Concentration descriptions can be found at: <https://ssw.uconn.edu/msw/>.*) Discuss the factors influencing the concentration you have selected. What do you consider to be your personal strengths and limitations in relation to your chosen concentration and why?

MSW APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Advanced Standing Essay (Summer applicants only)

In addition to the Personal Statement, Advanced Standing Applicants are required to submit an additional essay. The Advanced Standing Essay should be a double-spaced, typewritten document that addresses the following questions based on your concentration. There is no required page limit as long as all questions are thoroughly answered.

Individuals, Groups and Families

Please provide a specific example from your practice describing your work with an individual, group or family. Be sure to respond to all the following questions. Please refrain from including actual names and agencies.

- a. Briefly describe the agency.
- b. Briefly describe the practice assignment, including your understanding of your role with the client, group, or family.
- c. Describe and evaluate the extent to which you and the client, group or family developed a mutual agreement for your work. What could you have done differently?
- d. Present a brief case assessment. Present relevant data and inferences about the client, group, or family and the environment.
- e. Critically evaluate your helping efforts, analyzing strengths and limitations. Be sure to include brief excerpts from a process recording that illustrate your analysis. If you have not written process recordings, please reconstruct the interaction between you and the client, group or family, including some of the dialogue. In retrospect, how might you have intervened differently?
- f. Please comment on any social work values or ethical issues posed by this case.
- g. What did you learn about yourself as a social work practitioner from your BSW program?

Community Organizing & Policy Practice

Please provide a specific example from your practice describing your work with an individual, group or community. Be sure to respond to all the following questions. Please refrain from including actual names and agencies.

- a. Briefly describe the agency/organization/community and its mission.
- b. Briefly describe the practice assignment, including your understanding of your role with the population and issue.
- c. Describe and evaluate the extent to which you developed a mutual agreement (mutually agreed plan for your work). What could you have done differently?
- d. Present a brief assessment. Present relevant data and inferences about the population, the environment and planned intervention.
- e. Critically evaluate your helping efforts, analyzing strengths, challenges and limitations. Be sure to include brief excerpts from a process recording that illustrate your analysis. In retrospect, how might you have intervened differently? Any implications for the community, society and/or policy?
- f. Please comment on any social work values or ethical issues that arose.
- g. What did you learn about yourself as a social work practitioner from your BSW program?

MSW APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Advanced Standing Application Evaluation

In addition to the Advanced Standing admission qualifications, the Personal Statement and Advanced Standing Essay are important parts of the evaluation of the application. Each concentration has specific criteria that will be evaluated by faculty. Please see below.

- Individuals, Groups and Families
 - Applicants will be evaluated on the basis of their understanding of the social work profession, capacity for self-awareness and self-reflection, and critical thinking. Successful applicants will demonstrate these abilities at the level expected of advanced-year graduate students.
- Community Organizing
 - Applicants will be evaluated on the basis of their understanding of the social work profession and of the macro causes of social and economic injustice and have a commitment to using community organizing and other forms of macro practice to resolve social problems.
- Policy Practice
 - Applicants will be evaluated on the basis of their understanding of the social work profession and their regard for social and economic justice. Statement and essay need to show the capacity for self-awareness and self-reflection about values and ethics to evaluate social conditions and dilemmas. Successful applicants will demonstrate analytical and critical thinking abilities at the level expected of advanced-year graduate students.

Professional Recommendations

The application provides the ability for recommendations to be completed electronically. Applicants must provide the name and contact information for their recommenders. The application system will then send an email to each recommender providing instruction and access to a website where they will be able to submit their recommendation electronically. **It is preferred that the recommendation be written on letterhead and uploaded.** Applicants will be able to monitor the status of the online recommendation process.

As an applicant you will have the opportunity to indicate whether you waive your right to inspect the recommendations. **Please note:** if you waive this right, the contents of the recommendation will not be released to you or anyone other than the person reviewing applications.

Recommendations should be from two people who have recent knowledge of your qualifications and are professional or academic in nature. For those with work experience in social services, a recommendation from the most recent employer or supervisor must be provided.

Regular MSW Program

Two recommendations are required.

Advanced Standing Applicants

Three recommendations are required.

Of the three required recommendations:

- One of the recommenders must be in a position to speak to your work in the BSW practice placement (min. of one full semester) and can speak to both academic and field experience.

MSW APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- In the recommendation, the recommender should be able to evaluate your performance in the BSW practice placement and how ready the applicant is to move into the second year of the MSW program.
- One must come from a work or volunteer setting. It is helpful if the work setting is social work related.
- One additional professional or academic reference