

Personal Statement

You are asked to write a personal statement. Follow these instructions fully. This paper should be titled "Personal Statement." Please limit your paper to **five (5) pages** (double spaced, 12pt font).

We will evaluate your writing by examining the thoroughness and organization of your responses. We will look for evidence of critical thinking and analysis. We will look for evidence that your choice to pursue a career in social work is a thoughtful one based on reasonable knowledge of yourself and the profession.

Address the following topics in your personal statement:

1. What is your understanding of the profession of social work? Please support your reasoning with citations from the literature. Include citations (e.g. from books or articles) to support your position.
2. What are your reasons for choosing the social work profession? What has influenced your choice? What are your career goals? What alternative careers have you explored?
3. Describe a situation where you assumed a helping or advocacy role. What did you learn from this experience?
4. Simply put, an ethical dilemma is a conflict between two or more ethical values or principles. Describe an ethical dilemma you have experienced. Did you consider more than one option in response to the dilemma? If so, what were your options? Why were these options considered? How did you resolve the dilemma? Please **DO NOT** reveal names of individuals or organizations.
5. How would you define institutional racism/oppression in your own words?
6. How have your personal experience or lack of experience with institutional racism/oppression shaped your thinking and your intentions to pursue social work as a profession?

Answer # 7 only if it applies to you.

7. Are there any special circumstances that have influenced your academic history and which should be considered by the Admissions Committee?