

WVU SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
Personal Statement

Guidelines

Below are the guidelines for writing your **Personal Statement**. This essay must be completed by the January application deadline and must be submitted with your other materials when you apply.

Please limit your essay to **3 typed pages** (12 font, single space), include your name in the document header, and use the **bold-print, underlined words below as subheadings** in your paper.

1. What Life Events or Experiences have made you decide to major in, and pursue a career in, the field of Social Work?

2. What are your Career Plans/Interests and how does a BSW degree in Social Work fit those plans/interests? Other than the required human service activity, have you been engaged in other activities that support your plans (e.g., leadership, extracurricular activities, etc.)?

3. Discuss one or two Social Problems or issues that are of concern to you. What impact, if any, have they had on your decision to pursue Social Work as a career? What qualities, skills, or attributes do you have that might contribute toward the resolution of this (these) problem(s)?

4. Briefly describe your 50 hours of (paid or volunteer) Human Service Activity. What did you gain/learn from this practice opportunity? Did you encounter any difficulties? If so, briefly discuss.

5. Based on your knowledge of the field of Social Work, what, for you, would be the Most Difficult Aspect of Being a Social Worker? Why?

6. Briefly discuss any Preferences you may currently have for working in a particular field of practice or with a particular client population. Why do you prefer that area of practice? (If you have no such preferences, just indicate that you have none.)

7. Use this final section of your essay to address any Additional Information that you would like to share with the Admission Committee or anything in your record that you feel you should clarify/explain (a few examples might include a sluggish GPA in your early years, a poor grade in a certain course, special needs/motivations/goals you may have, special obstacles you must deal with, etc.).