



## BSSW Admission Criteria

### Admission Criteria

In addition to completing and submitting the digital BSSW application form and all supporting documentation, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Satisfactory completion of all pre-social work courses
- Have a minimum overall 2.5 GPA
- Satisfactory completion of SOWK 1000 (Intro to Social Work) or equivalent with a B or better
- Satisfactory completion of SOWK 1500 (Social Work and Civic Engagement) or equivalent with a B or better

### Information Required for Application

- Your 8-digit NU ID number
- Your professional resume, saved as a PDF with filename in this format:
  - **lastname-firstname-resume**
- Your personal essay, saved as a PDF with filename in this format:
  - **lastname-firstname-essay**
- pre-social work course history including course name, school name, semester (or quarter) and year, and final grade
- Three professional references (name, title/position, employer/agency, phone number, and preferred email address)

### How to Apply Online

If you are unable to complete and submit your BSSW application within one session, you may save your application and return to it within 30 days. Any files you attached prior to exiting your incomplete application will be lost and must be re-uploaded during your next session. Once you submit your online application along with your resume and personal essay, your application will be considered closed. No additional documents will be accepted from you after your initial application is submitted. Corrections, or revisions to your application, professional references, etc. will not be allowed.

### Application Window

The Grace Abbott School of Social Work accepts applications between January 15 and February 15 each year.

## Personal Essay

With appropriate self-disclosure, your personal essay should demonstrate personal maturity, written communication skills, and interest in and understanding of social work as a profession. Please address each of the following statements/questions in a four-five page paper. Pages should be double spaced using 12-pt. font.

- Include a brief autobiographical statement that discusses who you are and the experiences that led you to social work. Trace the development of your interest in social work; why have you chosen social work as a profession? Describe the key motivating figure(s), role model(s), or experience(s) relevant to your decision.
- Discuss your perceived career objectives as a professional social workers; what do you see yourself doing immediately after receiving your BSSW degree?
- Discuss a contemporary social problem. Include possible causes and potential solutions in your response. What contribution(s) do you want to make to the pursuit of social and economic justice?
- The Grace Abbott School of Social Work is committed to enrolling students who represent diverse backgrounds. Diversity can be defined by virtue of personal characteristics such as race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, disability, class, and religion as well as other characteristics. Diversity may also include personal life experiences such as class, career history, belonging to another culture, working among another culture, dealing with significant personal challenges, and knowledge of more than one language.

Even if you have had minimal contact with people from diverse backgrounds, please explain how you *think* about diversity in relation to the practice of social work and respond to the following questions:

- What are your views regarding diversity?
- How does diversity relate to experiences in your life?
- How might your view and experiences personally contribute to your work with clients in social work practice?

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