



MSW Admission Criteria

Personal Statement

The personal statement allows demonstration of personal maturity, written communication skills, interest in and understanding of social work as a profession, and appropriate self-disclosure. Please answer the following statements/questions in personal statement (5 pages, 12-point font, double spaced). Your application will be considered incomplete if these instructions are not followed.

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) important to your decision to become involved in social work.

Discuss your career objectives as a professional social worker as you now conceive them. What do you see yourself doing immediately after receiving your MSW degree?

Discuss a contemporary social problem; include possible causes and potential solutions in your response. What contribution 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 and have an aptitude for working with clients of 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 challenge(s), and knowledge of more than one language. Even if you have had minimal contact with people from diverse backgrounds, please address 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 these views and experiences personally contribute to your work with clients in social work practice?

Resume

Applicants are encouraged to have experience in social work or a related human service field. On your resume, draw attention to work experiences that provided you with training relevant to social work practice, specifically in the following areas:

- Educational experiences since high school
- Academic honors or distinctions
- Field placements, internships or practicums
- Human service experience

Professional References

References are generated from your online application from professional and/or academic persons (excluding family members and personal friends) are required as part of your completed GASSW online application. The completed online reference letter will be returned through email to the UNO Office of Graduate Studies office. Opinions of faculty and professionals who have had official contacts with the candidates may be sought and considered in the selection process. All reference materials submitted in support of a student’s admission become the property of UNO and cannot be duplicated or released.