



2020-2021 BSSW Application Requirements

Congratulations on taking the next step in starting or advancing your social work career – applying to the BSSW program in the Grace Abbott School of Social Work at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO).

We take a number of different factors into consideration during the admissions process, including your academic background, work experience, writing and critical thinking skills, and your understanding of and commitment to social work values and ethics. Your application will require three professional references, an updated resume, and a personal statement.

February 15 is the BSSW application deadline. Remember that your materials will not be forwarded to the Admissions Committee until they are complete, including transcripts and references. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. It is your responsibility to ensure that your application is complete by the February 15 deadline.

Application Requirements

Pre-social work courses with B grade or better

- SOWK 1000 (Intro to Social Work) or equivalent
- SOWK 1500 (Social Work and Civic Engagement) or equivalent

Minimum overall 2.5 GPA

- If your current GPA is below 2.5, what would you like the Admissions Committee to know about your academic experiences and aptitude?

Resume

- Educational experiences since high school
- Honors or distinctions received
- Professional experiences, especially in human services

Application Requirements (cont.)

Personal statement

The personal statement is an opportunity to demonstrate your understanding of and fit for the social work profession. The Admissions Committee pays close attention to both content and writing skill. In your personal statement, please address each of the items listed below. Your personal statement should be no more than five (5) pages, double-spaced, in a 12-point font. Your response to each item should be roughly the same length. If your personal statement does not clearly and directly address each of the items or does not follow the instructions, it may not be considered.

- Why have you chosen social work? Your response should demonstrate a basic understanding of the social work profession, including what distinguishes it from other helping professions.
- Social work is a values-based profession dedicated to mitigating inequality and enhancing human wellbeing, especially for vulnerable, marginalized, and oppressed populations. From the core values and ethical principles identified in the [NASW Code of Ethics](#), identify and discuss one that resonates with you and one that may challenge you.
- Social workers are self-reflective, strengths-based, and growth-oriented. Identify a strength that you possess and an area for growth. Discuss how you became aware of these, how they show up in your current professional practice, and how they may influence your future professional practice.
- The social work profession is rooted in social justice. Social workers adopt a stance of cultural humility and strive towards cultural awareness. Discuss a time when you realized that one of your personal or cultural identities influenced your reaction to a social situation. Reflecting on that experience, how might it influence your future social work practice?

Professional references

- Three references are required. These references should be from professional and academic sources who are directly familiar with your skills and experience. References from family members, family friends, personal friends, personal therapists, or other non-professional/academic sources will not be scored.

Optional Documentation

- Misdemeanor/Felony Charges
 - Misdemeanor or felony charges do not automatically disqualify an applicant from admission, but may affect practicum placement and future licensing. Accurate information will help us advise you.
 - If you have ever been charged with a misdemeanor or felony, please list the charges, the year you were charged, and the outcome of the charges. What would you like the Admissions Committee to know about these experiences and the implications for your future social work practice?
- Reapplication
 - If you have previously applied for admission to the BSSW program at the Grace Abbott School of Social Work, please list the year and the outcome. What would you like the Admissions Committee to know about your experiences since your original application?
- Autobiographical Statement
 - If you have a compelling autobiographical story relevant to your application, but that falls outside of the items addressed within the personal statement, you may attach a letter to the Admissions Committee. Your letter will be considered, but will not be scored.