

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Department of Social Work

Personal Statement

INSTRUCTIONS

Since the Graduate Social Work program at Southern Illinois University is preparing advanced practitioners in the profession, it recognizes its obligation to clients, colleagues, society, and the profession in selecting appropriate students for graduate study. The following personal statement is used by the Admissions Committee to evaluate your potential and readiness for graduate study in Social Work, as well as your writing skills. This statement provides the applicant an opportunity to communicate with the committee. All information provided in this statement is kept confidential. The statement should be organized in four sections, and should total approximately 750-1000 words. It should be typewritten and double spaced. Type your name on the upper right-hand corner of each page. Staple in the upper left-hand corner. The sections for the personal statement are as follows:

1. **Career Plans and Objectives**

This section should include how you became interested in the Social Work profession. What are your goals for graduate study and your career? What are your specific career objectives.

2. **Life and Relationships**

This section should include how friends, family members, influenced your decision to pursue a career in Social Work. What experiences have you had in a helping role? What experiences have you had with ethnic minorities/minority communities? How do you evaluate your capacity to relate to clients, supervisors, and colleagues? How do you handle working with people who have opinions and lifestyles different from your own?

3. **Social Commitment and Values**

This section should include what social problems you evaluate to be the most important in society today. How can the profession address these problems? How have you been involved in efforts to promote social and economic justice?

4. **Personal Strengths and Weaknesses**

This section should include what you consider to be your personal and professional strengths. What are the areas of needed growth and change? How can graduate study assist you in this process of growth and change?