

## 2017 MSW application process for Essay for Standard Applicants

Approved Feb 17, 2016

### Essay for Standard MSW Program Applicants (2017)

Taking the place of Graduate Entrance Exam (GRE), the Division of Social Work requires an academic essay (4-6 typewritten pages, double-spaced, approximately 2500 words) be written as a part of the application packet. This essay aids the Admissions Committee by providing an example of your writing ability and also demonstrates how you organize your ideas and thoughts in a written document. Please read through the topic choices below and select the one topic area that you are most interested in examining in this essay. You are required to provide a minimum of 5 professional resources in your essay that ground your discussion. Importantly, this essay *must be your own work*, without assistance from others. When completed, upload this to the application area.

**Topic choices:** This essay must address **one** of the following topic areas:

1. America's aging adult population will be expanding tremendously over the next two decades. What does that mean for our society? What are some of the important social programs that can provide support to older adults? Are there challenges to meeting the service needs of older adults in the U.S. and in our local area? Describe what you see as the most important challenges.
2. What factors contribute to the widening of the economic gap between the rich and the poor in the United States? Who are the people most vulnerable because of poverty? How can social workers address this gap through changes in policies and in social programs?
3. Today, more Americans—children, adolescents, adults and older adults, will suffer from some form of mental illness in their life time. Families often have little information on seeking help when they experience, for instance, depression or anxiety or other forms of mental illness. How can social workers help those persons who experience mental health challenges? Discuss why is it important for communities to provide accessible mental health services for those who are seeking support and treatment for mental illness?

## 2017 MSW application process for Essay for Standard Applicants

Approved Feb 17, 2016

4. There are many agencies and organizations where social workers work in Wyoming and the surrounding states. How does the generalist perspective prepare social workers to work in these varied professional settings? How do social workers benefit from a broad, generalist educational experience, in order to work in more rural communities? What are the benefits to preparing graduate level social work students as advanced generalist social workers?

**Guidelines:** As guidance, we provide the following instructions:

- Provide a concise introduction in your essay paper, which details the importance of the topic area you chose to social work. Include information from professional resources (e.g., journal articles, social work text books, NASW Code of Ethics, etc.) to support your introduction. Please note that these cited resources must be from peer-reviewed scholarly professional journals, published texts, or professional web sites.
- Provide your personal perspective on the problem or issue you selected. Provide a focused discussion (based on information from the professional literature) which defines the problem/topic area, possible causes contributing to the topic being addressed, and possible methods for resolving or dealing with the problem/topic being addressed. In your discussion, please refer to evidence-based practice if applicable. You should use a minimum of five professional resources to support your discussion.
- As you address the area you selected, indicate if there are cultural considerations and/or issues which are important in your discussion. For example, will certain minority populations be affected more or less than non-minority populations?
- There may also be ethical concerns or issues that would be beneficial to include in your paper.

## 2017 MSW application process for Essay for Standard Applicants

Approved Feb 17, 2016

- In concluding your essay, please provide an integrated summary of your perspective and the literature you have cited. Are your ideas and perspectives supported by the literature? Are there areas which you believe require further research?
- Provide a reference page for the resources you have cited. The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (2001) should be used for citations and references (APA, 2001). See <http://www.apastyle.org/previoustips.html>. The professional resources that you cite should be current (published within the past 10 years).

Your essay will be used in the screening process to evaluate your critical thinking skills, writing skills, your ability to use a social work perspective, and your ability to organize and integrate information. We also hope you will examine an issue with attention to differences that may be attributable to one's diversity, including cultural or ethnic differences. Most importantly, this paper must be prepared entirely by you. Please do not solicit outside input, editing or ideas from others including family, instructors, friends, associates, colleagues, etc. You will be required to sign a statement on the face sheet of this application indicating that you have received no assistance with this essay.