

Narrative Essay Instructions

The School of Social Work seeks students who have diverse experiences that will enrich the classroom environment, and whose post-graduation practices will represent an array of skills and interests. The personal narrative essay is a critically important part of your application; it reflects who you are and *why* you are seeking admission to the Master of Social Work program. Your essay will provide a clear picture of your of your goals and objectives as a potential social worker. *The submitted essay should be 4 - 5 double-spaced pages max (12 point Times New Roman) and include responses to the following prompts:*

- Describe the development of your interest in social work and in pursuing your MSW at UNC Chapel Hill. Please discuss any volunteer or paid experiences in human services, community work, or other experiences that contributed to your choice of social work as a profession.
- Describe a specific aspect or issue in social work that interests you most and explain how you became interested in this issue. In your opinion, why does this issue deserve public attention and resources? Speak to ways that the social work profession should respond to this issue, including leadership roles you might undertake.
 - If you are a dual degree applicant, please explain how you plan to use each degree/training to address the issue you identified above. (Your response can describe your plans at the policy, program, or direct practice levels of social work.)
- Describe an experience giving or receiving help on either an individual or community level. How will this experience affect you as a social work practitioner?
- What special experiences, attributes, or qualities do you bring to the field of social work and academic environment?
- Describe your immediate and long-term career goals, however tentative.

(Optional) Please address any special academic or other considerations that you would like the Committee to take into account in the review of your application. This response can include anything not covered in other questions that you think we should know about you that would help us in making an admissions recommendation.