

Guidelines for Personal Narrative for the UNC Chapel Hill MSW Program

Prepare a personal narrative of **4-5 double-spaced pages** in 12-point font and focus in some detail on all the questions below. **This narrative is one of the most important parts of your admissions folder.** Consider it your opportunity to communicate with Admissions Committee members about yourself. Before submitting it, make certain it gives the committee members a clear picture of your interests, experiences, and objectives.

- How do you account for your interest in social work? Please discuss any volunteer or paid experiences in human services, community work, and/or other experiences that contributed to your choice of social work as a profession. The admissions committee is looking for evidence of some leadership ability, experience or interest in working with diverse populations or oppressed groups, commitment to social and economic justice, and other interests congruent with social work.
- Please describe an aspect of social work that interests you most and explain how you became interested in this issue. Identify how you think social work, as a profession, should respond to this issue. If you are a dual degree applicant, please explain how you would utilize each degree/training to address this issue. (Feel free to describe a response at the policy, program, or practice levels of social work.)
- Describe briefly experiences in which you have given and/or received help at an individual or community level. How have you reflected on this experience? What were the most important elements of this experience and why? How would you apply lessons learned from this experience to your social work practice?
- The School of Social Work is seeking students with diverse experiences, who can enrich the classroom because they bring breadth to the learning environment, and for students who will represent an array of skills and interests as they begin their social work career following graduation. Describe yourself as someone who knows you well, such as a friend, colleague or family member might describe you. What special attributes do you bring to the field of social work?