

Guidelines for Recommendation Letters for the UNC Chapel Hill MSW Program

We encourage you to share this page with those from whom you are requesting recommendations.

A minimum of three recommendations are required. You should request recommendations from individuals who are familiar with your academic achievement and understand the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Social Work's mission to advance equity, transform systems and improve lives.

If you have been out of school for a number of years and are unable to contact former professors, letters from other individuals who can address your academic achievement and potential will be accepted. At least one or more of the references should be from people who have supervised and/or observed you engaged in a social work-related practice setting.

If you are an Advanced Standing applicant, one of your reference letters must be from a faculty member from your BSW Program. This can be one of the three required recommendations.

We suggest sharing the following questions and prompts to assist the people writing your recommendation letters:

- How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?
- Identify leadership, motivation, initiative and other personal characteristics that may either help or hinder the applicant's development as an effective social worker.
- Speak to the applicant's commitment to social and economic justice and their respect for and capacity to work with diverse populations.
- What is your evaluation of the applicant's ability to succeed in a rigorous graduate program; (e.g. writing skills, critical thinking skills, time management, and ability to receive and implement constructive feedback)?
- What are some potential areas of growth for this applicant?
- If you are BSW faculty member writing a recommendation for an Advanced Standing candidate, please discuss the applicant's undergraduate field placement experience and overall program performance.