

Statement of Purpose Instructions

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill 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 statement of purpose reflects who you are and *why* you are seeking admission to the Master of Social Work program at UNC. Your statement should provide a clear picture of your goals as a future social worker.

Your statement of purpose should be in a standard essay format and a maximum of 4-5 double-spaced pages in 12-point Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins. Please include responses to all of the following prompts in your essay:

- Describe the development of your interest in social work and in pursuing your MSW. Please highlight any volunteer or paid experiences that have contributed to your interest in social work as a career as well as any special experiences, attributes, or qualities you bring to the profession and academic environment.
 - What experiences have you had with people who are different from you?
 - How have your experiences helped you better understand your strengths and limitations?
- Describe a *specific* area or issue in social work that interests you most and how this interest developed.
 - How will the UNC Chapel Hill School of Social Work program further help you develop your knowledge and skills in your areas of interest?
 - How do you see yourself as a leader and/or providing leadership within your identified area of interest to advance equity, transform systems and improve lives?
- If you are a dual degree applicant, please explain how you plan to use each degree/training to address the issue you identified above.
- Social workers pursue social justice by striving to ensure access to needed information, services, and resources, particularly on behalf of persons and groups who are vulnerable and oppressed (NASW Code of Ethics, 2017). How will you use your MSW degree to pursue social justice based on your area(s) of interest?

(Optional) Please address any special academic or other considerations that you would like the Admissions Committee to consider when reviewing your application. This response can include anything not covered in previous questions that may help us in making an admissions recommendation. You may include this information in your 4 – 5 page Statement of Purpose or by submitting a letter in the “Program Supplement” section of the online application.