



NORTHWEST NAZARENE
UNIVERSITY

PERSONAL STATEMENT

A personal statement which follows the guidelines indicated below must be returned with your application materials. This statement is intended to give you an opportunity to describe significant life experiences, interests, and abilities. In addition, it will help the department obtain a clearer view of who you are and why you have chosen a career in social work. **This statement is an important part of the application process and should be written thoughtfully.** Please note that this statement is not intended to be a “life story” but rather an opportunity for you to identify significant life experiences which have influenced the development of your personality, career interests, values, and belief system. The statement should be divided into three subject areas: personal background, an evaluation of your professional self, and a statement related to your career interests and objectives. (Completion of this statement may require library research!)

MAXIMUM LENGTH—EIGHT (8) TYPEWRITTEN, DOUBLE-SPACED PAGES

Personal Background: (2 pages)

What life experiences and personal relationships have helped to form your personality and have shaped your values and belief system? Areas of interest would be family, friends, teachers, mentors, church groups, and activities, work, volunteer opportunities, political or social advocacy involvement, etc.

Evaluation of Professional Self: (3 pages)

This section provides you with an opportunity to inform the department of professional experiences and trainings which you feel have contributed to your readiness to pursue advanced social work education. In this section, please address the following topics:

Briefly describe your work setting. Include in your statement the locale (is the setting urban, rural, small town, etc.) and a general description of the population targeted for services and any special concerns or needs represented by this group. How would you evaluate your capacity to relate to clients, co-workers, supervisors, and the larger community in which you work? What has been your experience in working with (or relating to) persons whose opinions or lifestyle are different from your own? What experiences have you had with persons with physical or mental challenges? Bearing in mind that the school strongly identifies itself with rural social work, please include any experiences with rural or small town communities. Also, indicate any work or service opportunities in which you have engaged with international or U.S. ethnic minority populations. If you have had the opportunity to travel or study overseas or in specialized rural or urban settings in the U.S., please include a short statement about that experience. If you are bilingual, please indicate how your language skills have contributed to your professional development and work setting. Finally, indicate areas of professional development in which you feel you have attained a reasonable amount of proficiency and areas in which you need further development.

Career Interest and Objectives as they relate to social work values, practice and policy: (2 pages)

What values influence your desire to be a professional social worker? What are your future professional objectives and goals? How do you believe graduate studies will help you achieve these? Is your primary area of interest clinical, gerontological or community organization and management/advocacy? Please explain.

Define Rural Social Work: (1 page)

How would you define rural social work and how do your professional objectives and goals fit into an advanced educational setting which is emphasizing work with rural and small town communities?