

SOCIAL WORK FIELD PRACTICUM

Application for Field Placement

Statement of Professional Orientation

In order that we may have a better understanding of your interests in **Social Work**, you are asked to prepare a typewritten essay regarding your professional orientation. This material will be considered confidential. However, it will be shared with those persons directly concerned with your field practicum instruction.

Please set forth, in roughly chronological order, what you believe to be the most significant events and influences that have contributed to your motivation to serve others and to your choice of Social Work as a major. Use the following items as a guide.

1. Where and how did you first learn about the field of Social Work? What important relationships and interpersonal experiences with family, friends, advisors, teachers, or others influenced you in the choice of this major? Why does Social Work appeal to you? What experiences have you had which were valuable in developing attitudes of service towards others? Include formal learning such as in high school, at college or, perhaps, in counseling, as well as more casual learning situations such as voluntary service or cross-cultural living.
2. Describe a situation in which you feel you contributed to the resolution or alleviation of a particular problem encountered by another person.
3. Describe a situation in which you were in need of help and had to ask for it. Did the "helper" assist in alleviating the problem? If so, how? If not, why?
4. What personal qualifications do you have which you believe would be an asset for Social Work? What are your personal resources and strengths? What seems to you to be areas where difficulty might be expected in the process of becoming engaged in Social Work problem-solving activities? What are your limitations?
5. What do you expect to get from Field Instruction? What are your special interests within the profession of Social Work? What are your aspirations and plans for the future?

Appointment with Field Practicum Coordinator

Each student applying for a field placement will schedule an appointment with the Field Practicum Coordinator during the last two weeks of January. The essay will be submitted at the time of the appointment. Include a resume that will be shared with the potential field instructor and agency.