



Personal Statement Essay:

Submit one well-developed essay (**in APA format**) that discusses the significant factors influencing your decision to pursue a Master of Social Work. Your essay should help the admissions committee evaluate your readiness and capability for graduate education. The personal statement essay is a critical part of your admission application and will be the basis for evaluation of your writing skills, capacity for self-awareness and personal growth. The maximum length of the entire essay should be no more than five pages (*12 pt-font, double spaced, title page does not count towards page limit*). ***This is not short answer.***

Please note: Your writing and critical thinking skills are being evaluated in terms of readiness for graduate-level work. Be sure to include all required elements in an academic essay, using academic sources where appropriate and follow APA style. (Here is a website that may be useful as you prepare your essay: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/>). While some personal information is required in the essay (e.g., your strengths), you should be judicious in the use of self-disclosure. You are not expected to disclose intimate details of your life; however, if you choose to do so, you should do so only briefly and make it clear how the issue has been resolved so that you may now succeed in the program and the profession. The Social Work Department will not provide feedback on your personal statement prior to submission.

Your essay should: (a) discuss your personal philosophy, values, and professional experiences (b) discuss theories that drive your understanding of diversity (c) discuss your career plans and focus in the field of social work versus another helping profession (d) discuss your strengths and weaknesses that are relevant to the social work profession (e) describe a time you were given critical feedback. What was your reaction? (f) discuss why you believe the MSU Denver MSW program is best suited for your educational and professional goals (g) how will you manage the rigorous demands of graduate education?

Optional: Is there anything else you would like the Admissions Committee to know about you?

To Submit: The essay should be saved as a PDF document and uploaded to the personal statement section of the online application.