

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK**  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-RIO GRANDE VALLEY**

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**Instructions for Completing your Personal Statement**

Addressing each of the following statements, prepare an essay of approximately 1,000 words discussing your interest in social work. This essay should be typewritten, double spaced, and should contain few if any, spelling or grammatical errors. Please include your name on the cover letter. Organize your essay using the following headings, but complete Part III only if it is applicable to you:

**Part I:**

1. Why are you seeking a graduate degree in social work at this time?
2. Explain why you chose your micro concentration in family focused practice with Latinos or macro administration and community practice concentration to focus on for your advanced year studies.
3. What specific career goals and aspirations do you have following your graduation from the Master of Science in Social Work Program at University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley?
4. Why have you chosen to apply to University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley, Department of Social Work to pursue a master's degree in social work?

**Part II:**

1. Discuss the personal, vocational, and educational experiences you have had which have helped you define your choice of social work as a field of graduate study. Include a description of relevant human services practice experience.
2. Examine your personal strengths and limitations. Explain how your personal characteristics support, inhibit, and generally influence your ability to pursue graduate study and to establish a professional career in social work.

**Part III:**

Briefly identify and discuss any special circumstances that you believe the MSSW Admissions Committee should consider in evaluating your application. (Examples: military service; single head of household; primary caretaker for a family member with disability; special abilities) Your discussion of special circumstances should reflect your ability to overcome obstacles or your potential to succeed in the MSSW program.