LETTER OF REFERENCE

___ Advanced Standing (33-hour)
___ Regular Program (63-hour)

Name of applicant: (Print) __________________________________________________

I am aware of my rights under the Family Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 to have access to letters of recommendation written on my behalf. (Applicant must check one.)

O It is my desire that this letter be written in confidence, and I, therefore wish to waive my rights of access to this letter.

O I wish to retain my rights of access.

Applicant’s Signature ___________________________ Date _______________

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REFERENCE:

The person named has applied for admission to the Master of Science in Social Work Program at the University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley. Your candid assessment of the applicant’s potential for graduate social work education would be greatly appreciated. Applicants should be mature and emotionally stable and demonstrate a capacity for self-awareness and personal growth.

1. Approximately how long have you known the applicant? _____ Years _____ Months

2. What was the nature of your contact(s) with the applicant? (Check one)
   ___ Professor in at least one class
   ___ Internship Field Instructor
   ___ Current Employer/ Supervisor
   ___ Former Employer/Supervisor
   ___ Other ___________________
   ___ Other ___________________

3. Please rate the applicant’s attributes or skills in each category listed below by placing a check mark in the appropriate box. For each category, check the rating that best describes the applicant in comparison to other potential graduate students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Outstanding</th>
<th>Above Average</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Below Average</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Not able to evaluate</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Achievement motivation</td>
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<td>Intellectual ability</td>
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<td>Ethics/ Integrity/ Honesty</td>
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<td>Emotional maturity/stability</td>
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<td>Oral expression</td>
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<td>Written expression</td>
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<td>Self-awareness</td>
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<td>Sensitivity to needs and feelings of others</td>
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<td>Work ethic</td>
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<td>Judgment</td>
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</table>
4. Please comment on the applicant’s strengths and weaknesses in the lines below (optional):
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

6. Please indicate where you believe this applicant may have her/his greatest difficulty: social situations, intellectual pursuits, financial situations, family support, and adaptability.
   ___ employment obligations
   ___ working with others
   ___ academic course work
   ___ financial situation
   ___ family support
   ___ other ______________________________________________________________

   ___ No difficulties

7. Please indicate your overall recommendation of the candidate for admission to our graduate program: (check only one)

   ___ Yes, without reservations
   ___ Not sure
   ___ No, do not recommend

Signature of Reference ____________________________ Date ____________

Name (please print): ______________________________________________________

Position __________________________ Employer ______________________________

Business Address: ____________________________________________________________________
                  Street # No./ City/ Zip Code/ Phone #

Thank you for your assistance. Please return to:

Department of Social Work
Attn: MSSW Admissions Committee
University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley
1201 West University Drive
Edinburg, Texas 78539-2999