

Instructions for Completing the Personal Statement

Please address each of the following questions in an essay of approximately 1000 words discussing your interest in social work. The essay should be typed, double-spaced, and free of grammatical and spelling errors. Organize your essay using the following headings, but only complete Part III if it is applicable to you.

Part I

1. Why are you seeking a graduate degree in social work?
2. Why have you chosen to apply to the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley?
3. What specific career goals and aspirations do you have following your graduation from the Master of Social Work Program?

Part II

1. Discuss the personal, vocational, and educational experiences you have had which help you define your choice of social work as a field of graduate study. Include a description of relevant human services practice experience.
2. What are your personal strengths and limitations? How do you think your personal characteristics support, inhibit, and influence your ability to pursue graduate studies and a professional career in social work?

Part III

Briefly identify and discuss any special circumstances that you believe MSW Admissions Review 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 MSW program.