

## **GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING GRADUATE ADMISSION STATEMENT**

**This statement must accompany your application materials to The School of Social Work. - Sample**

As part of your application for admission to the School of Social Work, you are to write a statement that addresses the five areas listed below. This statement will be used both to assess your writing and critical thinking skills and to aid the Graduate Admissions Committee in making a decision about your application. Please adhere to the following guidelines.

- The statement should not exceed **five** typewritten pages.
- The statement should be double spaced and use a readable font (Arial, Times New Roman) and size (no smaller than 11 point).
- Please include a coversheet with your name and identification of the program to which you are applying (If you are applying to more than one, list your first choice program.): first year, full-time at OU in Norman; first year, part-time at CCE (College of Continuing Education) in Norman; first year, part-time at OU in Tulsa; Advanced Standing OU in Norman; Advanced Standing at OU-Tulsa or graduate transfer program.
- Please address the following questions in your statement. Some of the questions contain multiple parts so be sure to read and answer the questions fully.

1. What motivates you to pursue a master's degree in social work at this time?

2. The profession of social work is committed to social, political, and economic justice, the alleviation of poverty and oppression, and the reduction of social problems. What social problems are you particularly concerned about? How do you understand social, political and economic justice? How do you think that you can advance it? What experiences or factors have shaped your interest in advancing justice?

3. Describe some of your experiences and achievements in school, work (volunteering or employment), and in your personal life. Include a description of any barriers you have encountered in pursuing your education, work, or personal goals. Indicate the steps and strategies you have used or are using to overcome these barriers.

4. Describe any experiences that demonstrate you can work effectively with individuals and communities that represent diverse populations (for example but not limited to, people and communities reflecting diverse ethnicities, racial identities, abilities, socio-economic class, gender, or sexual orientations). Describe any difficulties you have encountered or that you think that you might encounter when working with any of the diverse groups mentioned above.

5. Please describe your plans for completing the MSW program if you are admitted. For example, how do you plan to balance your work, education and personal life? .