

MSW Admission Essay

As part of your application for admission to the Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work, please address the five areas listed below (maximum 250 words for each response). These answers will be used both to assess your writing and critical thinking skills and to aid the Admissions Committee in making a decision about your application. Note that 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 in Social Work degree at this time?
2. Social workers engage with a wide range of human challenges and social concerns. Identify an issue or area of need that matters to you and explain why it is significant. How do you see your future role as a social worker contributing to addressing this issue?
3. Describe a meaningful experience—academic, professional, or personal—that has shaped your growth. What did you learn from the challenges or successes you encountered, and how might those lessons shape your approach to graduate study?
4. Social work involves navigating complex ethical responsibilities and working across a wide range of human experiences. We encourage applicants to review the NASW Code of Ethics as part of preparing for a career in social work.
 - a. After reviewing the NASW Code of Ethics, reflect on your comfort level with upholding these values and principles in your future work. Are there any aspects you anticipate might be challenging, and how do you plan to navigate those challenges?
 - b. Social work also requires a willingness to learn from others and to examine your own beliefs and assumptions over time. What does this kind of ongoing learning mean to you, and how do you plan to engage in it during your time in the program?
5. Graduate study in social work involves a significant time commitment, including classroom learning and field experience during weekday hours. How do you plan to balance school, work, and personal responsibilities? What strategies or resources will help you stay grounded and manage your well-being?
6. If GPA is lower than 3.0 answer this additional question: Please discuss the situations that led to your GPA that is lower than the admissible 3.0 for the Graduate College. Share about what you learned from these experiences and describe the plan you have developed to aid you in maintaining the required GPA for Graduate School.