

Master of Social Work (MSW) and Master of Public Health (MPH)
Joint Degree Program

Admission/Personal Statement Instructions

Your admission statement is a writing sample and is strongly considered when making an admission decision. It must be well written and free from spelling and grammatical errors. Admissions decisions are made without consideration of a disability. Therefore, do not disclose a disability in your essay. Your statement must be typed, double-spaced, using Times New Roman, font size 12. Do not leave extra space between paragraphs. It must be at least three full-length pages, BUT NOT EXCEED FIVE PAGES. Please make sure your name is at the top of each page. Do NOT include a cover page with your statement.

Your statement must address the following items:

- 1) Indicate why you are applying to the MSW/MPH joint degree program and describe why you believe you are a good fit with both the School of Social Work and Department of Family Medicine's urban mission. <http://socialwork.wayne.edu/about/mission.php>
<http://www.familymedicine.med.wayne.edu/mph/mission-values.php>
- 2) The National Association of Social Workers and the Public Health Leadership Society set forth important guiding principles to address social workers and public health workers ethical responsibility. In order to answer the following questions, please read carefully the information provided at: <http://www.naswdc.org/pubs/code/code.asp>.
https://www.apha.org/~media/files/pdf/membergroups/ethics_brochure.ashx
Describe how these ethical standards would shape your professional social work and public health practice. How would you reconcile any conflicts between your personal values and the requirements of the professions?
- 3) The social work and public health professions are committed to social justice. Please describe your thoughts on a particular social and economic justice challenge and how you intend to use your professional social work and public health degrees to address these issues.
- 4) Describe your strengths and challenges, especially as it pertains to social work and public health practice with diverse populations. Include your attitude toward people with values, cultures, races, ethnicities, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or religions different from yours.
- 5) Describe how you are prepared to successfully complete the MSW/MPH joint degree program. Describe how you might cope with the demands of graduate studies, balancing the demands of school, work, family and finances.

In the Admission Statement, applicants must also address the following:

a) Discuss any gaps or deficiencies in your academic records (incompletes, withdraws, terminations, etc.).

b) Discuss any employment situations (if applicable) such as suspensions, terminations, gaps etc.

c) Fully disclose any past and/or current misdemeanor or felony charges. It is not the policy of the School of Social Work to deny admission on the sole basis of a legal record, however the School of Social Work does require personal interviews with the Director of Admissions and Student Services to discuss the legal charges and inform the applicant of any possible barriers to field placement, licensure, and employment. Applicants are urged to respond authentically to this item, as failure to do so constitute a WSU student conduct violation and will be reported to the University's Dean of Students Office.