



WAYNE STATE School of Social Work

Wayne State University is committed to a policy of non-discrimination and equal opportunity in all of its educational programs and related activities.

**Guidelines for preparation of your Statement of Purpose for
the
Wayne State University Master of Social Work
Program**

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

Your statement of purpose 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. 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:

- The National Association of Social Workers set forth important guiding principles to address social workers' ethical responsibility to clients, colleagues, employers and employing organizations, the social work profession and society. In order to answer the following questions, please read carefully the information provided at <https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-English> Describe how these ethical standards would shape your professional social work practice. How would you reconcile any conflicts between your personal values and the requirements of the profession? Describe why you believe you are a good fit with the mission of the Wayne State University School of Social Work, particularly its urban mission. See <http://socialwork.wayne.edu/about/mission.php>.
- Social workers are committed to social justice. Please describe your thoughts on a particular social and economic justice issue and how you intend to use your professional social work degree to address these issues.
- Describe your strengths and challenges, especially as it pertains to social work practice with diverse populations. Include your attitude toward people with values, lifestyles, cultures, and/or religions different from yours.

- Describe how you are prepared to successfully complete the MSW program. Describe how you might cope with the demands of graduate studies, balancing the demands of school, work, family and finances. Students applying for online program, briefly detail how you will complete asynchronous coursework

In the Statement of Purpose, applicants must address the following:

- a) Discuss any gaps or deficiencies in your academic records (incompletions, withdrawals, 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 does require personal interviews with the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs to discuss the legal charges and inform the applicant of any possible barriers to internship placement, licensure, and employment. Applicants are urged to respond authentically to this item, as failure to do so constitutes a WSU student conduct violation and is reported to the University's Dean of Students Office.