



## College of Community and Public Affairs

---

### Department of Social Work

#### Personal Statement for the Master of Social Work Program

In order for the Admissions Committee to obtain a clearer picture of **who** you are, why you have chosen to enter the social work profession, your readiness for graduate education, and what motivates you to apply to the Binghamton University Master of Social Work Program, we ask you to write a personal statement and submit it with your application. This statement, which is an important part of your overall application, should not include a detailed description of your entire life; it *should* briefly cover important experiences, interests, and abilities as they relate to your seeking professional training in the Master of Social Work program. The statement should be divided into two subject areas: **personal evaluation** and **career objectives**.

##### Personal Evaluation

Describe why you think you would make a good social work student as well as an effective social worker. In writing this description, please address the following:

- The **significant life experiences** that have led to the development of your personality and your value and belief system.
- Your **readiness** for undertaking graduate social work education. Please address how you believe you will face the **rigorous demands of coursework and field education** (in the latter case, especially in terms of being able to handle the emotional and practical strain of dealing with client and community problems).
- Why you believe that **Binghamton University's MSW program is best suited to your needs**, bearing in mind that this program has as its mission preparing social workers for generalist practice in public and private not for profit agencies.
- Given the program's commitment to meeting the needs and advocating for the rights of diverse clients and communities, please comment on your personal or professional experience with at least three of the following aspects of diversity: race, ethnicity, national origin, color, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, political belief, religion, and mental or physical disability.
- Both your **strengths and areas of your life that need strengthening** in relation to the profession of social work.

##### Career Objectives

Describe why you want to be a social worker and what you would like to do in the future. Please answer the following questions:

- What do you hope to gain from graduate education?
- What has led you to decide to enter the social work profession?
- What are your future professional goals?
- How do your career goals fit with the program's mission? (Please refer to Mission Statement.)

**The statement should be between 4-8 double-spaced, typed pages.**