

PERSONAL STATEMENT AND VIGNETTES

Required of all applicants and will be used to assess your written communication skills and to evaluate your knowledge of your career choice, your availability to complete field hours and your commitment to the social work profession. Failure to address all prompts will affect your overall application.

PERSONAL STATEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL AND CAREER GOALS

A four to six page typewritten, double spaced statement is required. In your statement, discuss the following:

- ✓ Experiences and/or relationships that have influenced your selection of social work as your professional career (e.g. family, education, volunteer work, paid, employment, recipient of social services, etc.)
- ✓ How would a social work education and career will be of value to you?
- ✓ The values that are intrinsic to the profession of social work and personal experiences that demonstrate your understanding and acceptance of such values.
- ✓ Your understanding of the responsibilities of the social work profession and the role and responsibilities that you wish to assume as a professional social worker.
- ✓ Describe your experience with people of diverse backgrounds, cultures, and lifestyles.
- ✓ Describe any emotional or physical characteristics or limitations which should be considered in planning for your social work training.
- ✓ Your reasons for selecting the MSW Program at California State University, San Bernardino.
- ✓ What plans have you made for completing the program? Consider finances, time management, etc. Indicate your access to a computer and your plan (if necessary) to learn word processing and the use of the internet before you begin the program. Include a plan for the full time or part time program showing that you understand the time demands of the program and how you intend to deal with them.
- ✓ Statement of Field Plan: Refer to instructions on Statement of Field Plan Instruction Sheet
- ✓ Pathway Distance Education applicants must also complete the **“Additional Personal Statement”** questions.

VIGNETTES

Typewritten on separate pages from the personal statement.

Draw from your own paid employment, volunteer work, or personal experiences to provide illustrations of how you handled similar situation as noted in (a) and (b) below. Make sure not to use names or information that might violate the confidentiality of the individuals you decide to use in your descriptions. **For both (a) and (b), explain how you may have grown or learned from the experiences you describe.**

- a) Clearly describe a situation where you were confronted with a value or ethical conflict. How did you resolve it? What were some of the factors you considered in making your decision?
- b) Discuss a difficult or dangerous situation you encountered. How did you handle the situation? What would you do differently in the future? Are there any situations in which you would feel particularly vulnerable as a student? How would you expect the School of Social Work to assist your education and skill building concerns in order to handle that type of situation?