

Academic and Professional Writing Sample

Directions

- The writing sample consists of your answers to three questions.
- Type your response in the expanding text box after each question.
- Each answer should be 400 - 450 words in length and written with correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar. One or more paragraphs may be necessary to articulate your thoughts.

Question 1: Social Work Goals

How will attending the MSW Program at Southeastern University help you accomplish your professional goals? In your response, identify specific career goals. Describe how your personal, professional, and/or academic experiences support the goals.

Question 2: Diversity and Values

Discuss your interaction with someone who was different or shared a different viewpoint from you. How did you handle the situation? What was the outcome? Based on this interaction, explain how you practiced the core values of the social work profession.

Note: Your response must include a reference citation and reference list related to the core values of the social work profession. APA (American Psychological Association) formatting is required. The best place to reference the social work core values is in the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Code of Ethics found at <https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics>.

Question 3: Professional Self-Awareness

How will you use your professional and personal strengths to balance the academic coursework and field placement hours with your personal and professional commitments? In your response, discuss how you plan to use your strengths to meet the MSW Program expectations. In addition, identify personal or professional limitations or commitments, which may create barriers in meeting the MSW Program requirements. Describe a plan about how you will use your strengths to reduce barriers in successfully completing the MSW Program.

A note about the MSW Program: Our graduate program expects a higher level of academic work than a baccalaureate program. The field experience requires time in a community-based agency. Students admitted to the traditional program complete two field experiences: (a) generalist placement and (b) clinical social work placement. Students receiving advanced standing complete one field experience called the clinical social work placement. Field requirements for both placements are below.

- **Generalist field experience:** For the first traditional field placement, a student must earn at least 400 field hours. The student should expect to spend 25 hours per week in the field agency for the 16 weeks during Summer I and Summer II terms.
- **Clinical field experience:** For traditional students in their second year of the program and the advanced standing students, a student must earn at least 500 field hours. The student should expect to spend 16 – 18 hours per week in the field agency for 16 weeks in the fall and spring semesters.

MSW Program Admissions, Southeastern University – 2019-2020

Past MSW students, who have successfully completed their field experiences, typically have:

- Part-time or flexible employment hours with an understanding employer (Trying to work 40 or more hours a week and complete the MSW Program is extremely difficult.)
- Time management skills specifically using a calendar to plan schedules
- Ability to prioritize events and learning to say “no” to events of lesser priority
- Assertive communication by asking clarifying questions and proactively seeking information
- Strong support system of individuals who can step in to help with childcare, making meals, providing a listening ear, etc.