

## MSW Admissions Application Program Professional/Personal Statement

One of the most important aspects of your MSW application is your ability to communicate, in writing, that you meet all of the requirements of WNMU's Social Work Program. This is to be accomplished through your statement. It is of utmost importance that all materials are written exclusively by the applicant.

The statement should be 3-4 double-spaced, typewritten pages using a 12-point Times New Roman font. Please use the questions **in bold font** as headings for your responses. Your response will aid the Admissions Committee in assessing your qualification for our MSW Program and for professional social work practice.

The Admissions Committee will assess your statement based on the following: 1) **motivation** for a professional social work career, 2) **cultural awareness** and appreciation for difference, 3) commitment to social work **ethics and social justice**, and 4) self-reflectiveness/**self-awareness**. Critical thinking and clarity in your writing will also be assessed (**writing and language skills**).

**Advanced Standing** applicants, having already earned a Bachelor of Social Work degree, are expected to illustrate a more in-depth understanding of professional social work ethics, values, and practice in their responses to the questions.

1. Please explain your professional interest and motivation for seeking a Master's degree in social work and discuss your vision of how you plan to use your degree to advance human rights, social, racial, economic, and environmental justice.
2. Provide one **detailed** example describing an interaction with people who are different from yourself. Reflect on what you learned from this experience and discuss how your learning connects to professional social work values such as service, social justice, dignity and worth of the person, importance of human relationships, integrity, and competence. Your example should include differences in at least one of the following areas: race/ethnicity, culture, spiritual tradition, age, (dis)ability, socio-economic status, sexual orientation or gender identity.
3. Provide one **detailed** example describing how your personal values and ethics have influenced your interactions with others. Reflect on what you learned from this experience and discuss how your learning connects to professional social work values such as service, social justice, dignity and worth of the person, importance of human relationships, integrity, and competence.
4. What personal and professional strengths do you bring to the profession? What areas of personal and professional growth and learning do you hope to achieve while completing the program?

**5. If you are applying for Re-admission,** please explain why you are re-applying and provide a plan of action describing how you will successfully complete your degree at this time.