

PERSONAL STATEMENT INSTRUCTIONS MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

INSTRUCTIONS: All applicants must answer questions # 1 through 3. **Advanced Standing applicants** must also answer question # 4 and 5. Your personal statement should be 4 to 5 pages in length total, double spaced with one inch margins, in 12 point font.

1. We want to know more about you – your life, your goals, your path, your challenges, and your strengths. We also want to know why you are choosing social work as a profession.
2. We are committed to cultivating a vibrant environment in which we attract and foster the success of diverse students, and prepare them for a career of working successfully across differences. Please share specific experience(s) and/or leadership efforts that you have had that showcase your awareness of, and commitment to, individuals or groups from whom you differ in one or more of the following: religion, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, socioeconomic status, immigration status, or ability/disability status.
3. You are applying to a program with a single concentration in disability studies. We define disability broadly to include physical, sensory, developmental, intellectual, neurological, and psychiatric impairments, including substance use disorders. Please explain your personal values, beliefs, and experiential insight, if any, regarding disabilities.

If you are applying for Advanced Standing, please answer questions 1-5.

4. We are interested in knowing how you would respond to the following scenario. Tell us how would you would: a. Engage, b. Assess, and c. Intervene at the i. micro, ii. mezzo, and iii. macro levels?

A family from Venezuela recently immigrated to the U.S and are in New York City. The family consists of a mother, father, and two children, ages 3 and 8. Since just prior to immigrating, the younger child has been irritable, not responding to her name, seems to be losing the limited verbal skills she had acquired, and has been engaging in repetitive hand and body movements. She does not make eye contact with family members or strangers. The family does not have relatives in the U.S. They are limited to 60 days in transitional housing.

5. Please explain what theory you are using to guide your decisions in question 4.