

**PERSONAL PROFESSIONAL STATEMENT**  
**10/2/2013**

The *Personal Professional Statement* is an important part of the evidence you provide of your ability to undertake graduate social work education. This *Statement* should be written as a formal paper (essay), using appropriate headings and subheadings, complete sentences and correct grammar. Use the outline, below to guide your writing. Be sure to address *all* topics included in this outline.

**I. Social work as a career goal**

Be sure to address the following:

Your interest in social work.

The most critical contemporary social issue to be addressed by professional social workers.

Service areas or client groups of interest to you.

Your commitment to Advanced Generalist Social Work Practice.\*

**II. Background experiences**

Be sure to address the following:

Your reason for seeking professional education now.

Your participation in school and community activities.

Your expected graduate school performance, compared with your undergraduate performance.

Your anticipated contributions to the college and your fellow students.

Your career goals for the five years after graduation, including where you plan to live and work.

**\*Advanced Generalist Practice:** The ability to practice autonomously across complex situations utilizing various approaches often with limited resources and called upon to play multiple roles. The advanced generalist practitioner is a self-regulating practitioner who can evaluate practice effectively, who works on the local level but can think globally. The advanced generalist concentration prepares graduates with the requisite skills to engage in complex, multi-level change efforts in complex contexts, and to function as leaders in human services development, policy advocacy and change efforts.

**IMPORTANT:** State law and in particular field education (practicum) sites may require some or all of the following: 1) criminal background check; 2) child abuse clearance; 3) health related clearances; 4) drug testing and other such clearances. Certain types of criminal convictions and/or health related issues may affect the student's ability to complete the program. In addition, a number of employers and statewide licensing boards have policies regarding criminal histories which may limit employment and licensing options.