



Instructions for MSW Personal Statement/Autobiographical Essay

As part of the application process, students have the opportunity to demonstrate their writing ability through a 4 - 5 page autobiographical statement. This statement allows Long Island University Faculty to determine whether the student has the writing skills necessary to perform successfully in the MSW program. Applicants should be certain that their autobiographical statement is a fair sample of their ability to express themselves in writing. The statement should include the material identified below and any other information the student feels may be important when considering the application for admission.

1. Describe why you selected the profession of social work. In writing this description, please address the following: What influenced your choice? What makes you believe that you will be an effective social worker? What are your career goals? What if any alternative careers have you explored?
2. Describe an experience in which you exercised leadership, responsibility, and/or judgment, and discuss what you learned from that experience.
3. Discuss a contemporary social problem. Include possible causes and potential solutions in your response. What course of action do you recommend? Discuss the potential benefits and drawbacks of your preferred plan.
4. If there is anything else you would like us to know as we consider your application, please describe.
5. Please submit a detailed resumé in chronological order, specifying the name of the organization and identifying the following information:
 - a. All paid social service positions, including whether the position was full-time or part-time, type of work, by whom it was supervised, and the nature of the client population.
 - b. All volunteer social service positions (camps, hospitals, etc), indicating whether the position was full-time or part-time, type of work, by whom it was supervised, and the nature of the client population.
 - c. All paid positions held other than social service agencies (including military experience)
 - d. Descriptions of leadership activities, other relevant life experiences, and all language read and/or spoken in addition to English