



Social Work Department

APPLICATION FOR CONTINUANCE IN THE SOCIAL WORK MAJOR

Please complete Parts I and II of this form.

PART I (Cover form)

1. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name

(Last, First, M.I.) _____

School Address: _____

Permanent Address: _____

Current Phone Number: _____ Student ID: _____

Email Address _____

2. EDUCATION

High School _____

Higher Education
(if any) _____

Credits Achieved _____

Other Specialized Training (Volunteer, Military, etc.): _____

3. EMPLOYMENT

What work experiences if any have you had that relate to Social Work? Be Specific.

4. VOLUNTEER OR COMMUNITY EXPERIENCES

What volunteer activities or community experiences, if any, have you had that relate to Social Work? Be specific.

A. Placement for SW2200 Intro to Social Work

B. Other volunteer experience (Either prior to enrollment at PSU, or during enrollment through the Student Social Work Club; please specify)

5. NASW Code of Ethics

I am aware that the professional practice of social work (BSW and MSW degreed practitioners) is guided by the Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers. I have reviewed the Code (which can be accessed via the web at: <http://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/code/code.asp>) as part of my application for continuance in the social work major.

Signature

Date

6. Readiness for Social Work Practicum

I understand that the Social Work major includes a 450-hour practicum and practicum sites may require health or criminal clearances. Although sites may cover the expenses of this requirement, ultimately it is my responsibility to ensure that the necessary clearances are obtained. I understand that the department will not cover the related expenses.

Signature

Date

PART II (Written Statement)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PERSONAL STATEMENT

Address the following questions in a personal statement that is typed, double-spaced and approximately two to three pages in length. Attach (or include) the statement to (or with) this application.

Your statement should be a serious reflection on your thoughts and feelings about being a Social Work major. It will be considered carefully by the Social Work faculty as part of the application and approval process for continuance in the major.

1. Why do you want to be a Social Work major? What personal (family and friends), academic, work, volunteer and/or community experiences influenced this decision?
2. What social problems in our society are of concern to you? Why do you think these problems exist and how can social work contribute to their alleviation?
3. What qualities, attributes, skills do you possess that could be used to solve problems?
4. What strengths do you feel you possess that will assist you in your career as a social worker? What areas of growth have you identified that you will need to address in your work as a social worker?
5. How would you describe your experiences with human diversity? What do you consider your strengths as well as areas in need of further growth in relation to working with people whose class, gender, culture, ethnicity, sexual orientation, physical ability, developmental ability, or mental health status are different from your own?
6. Please identify any significant events you have experienced in your life that could influence your practice as a social worker, or that you feel you will need to address in your work as a social worker.

Evaluation of Statement

The following factors will be considered when your application is reviewed by the department:

1. intellectual qualities and academic skills;
2. commitment to the enhancement of quality of life for individuals and families;
3. concern for issues of social justice and sensitivity to cultural diversity; and
4. capacity for self-awareness and self-evaluation.

PART III (Interview)

Interviews will be scheduled after receipt of the application and personal statement. If materials submitted are insufficient for decision-making, additional information will be requested. The Department Chair will assign a faculty member to contact you for a brief interview. The purpose of the interview is to provide an opportunity for you to discuss becoming a part of the social work profession. Students will be questioned as to their reasons for choosing Social Work as a major, what they know about the profession, and what areas of practice or client populations they want to work in or with.

Upon completion of the interview, the faculty member will make a recommendation to the chair of the department. The chair reviews the recommendation and makes a final decision regarding student admission. Applicants receive written notice regarding the decision within 14 calendar