INSTRUCTIONS FOR PERSONAL STATEMENT

Your Personal Statement is a major factor used to evaluate your application file. The specificity and clarity of your remarks will assist faculty to assess your capacity and readiness for baccalaureate education, your writing skills, and your ability to achieve your goals in the program. The total number of pages for the personal statement should be 2-3 double-spaced, typed pages.

The personal statement gives you an opportunity to tell us about yourself and what has led you to this point in your life. The content should help us understand what life experiences have molded you as a potential student in the social work program.

In reviewing the statement, faculty will be looking for the following:

- Statements that reflect your values, beliefs, and attitudes about the people who use social services.
- Evidence that you have found ways to express your values, beliefs and attitudes in your relationships and/or work (volunteer or paid) experiences. We are looking for life experience, not necessarily social work experience.
- An awareness of major social issues affecting life in your community and the population you would like to work with when you complete your degree.
- An identification of your strengths as a person, as a student and as a potential social worker as well as an awareness of the factors that could hinder you.
- A plan through which you indicate how you have met or plan to meet General Education Core Requirements (GECR’s), University Proficiencies, Graduation requirements, and the foreign language requirement. (The Direct Transfer Agreement from any community college in the State of Washington and North Idaho College or an AAOT from Oregon community colleges will complete all EWU GECR’s).

INFORMATION REGARDING THE RATING PROCESS

One faculty member will independently evaluate your application file. The “Personal Statement” is a major item used for evaluation so it is in your best interest to give careful attention to completing it. The specificity and clarity of your statement will assist the faculty in assessing your capacity and readiness for graduate education, your writing skills, and your ability to achieve your career goals within the framework of the School’s mission and educational resources.

- If you have ever been convicted of a felony, please read the following: A background check is required for all students entering practicum. If you have ever been convicted of a felony, particularly a crime against a person, please include in your personal statement a description of the circumstances of the conviction. Describe what led to court action, year of conviction, and how you dealt with the conviction in terms of planning for a professional career in social services. While past experiences will not necessarily prevent admission to the School, they may restrict the availability of potential practicum placements. No placement in practicum will prevent you from completing the program.

For Additional Information

If you have any questions about the BASW program or the application process contact the Coordinator of Undergraduate Student Services at dsomerday@ewu.edu or 509.359.6482.