EWU MSW Application FAQs

You are encouraged to carefully review this information before completing your application.

Essay Questions

**Question:** What is considered a strong essay?
**Answer:** Strong essays are developed carefully and thoughtfully. The essay should address each prompt. Strong answers include examples and evidence. Providing examples from your life, work, volunteer experiences, and other related details helps to demonstrate your ability to apply concepts. The essay should be written clearly and concisely. Be sure you give yourself plenty of time to complete your essay questions.

**Question:** How long should my essays be?
**Answer:** You will have 3000 characters (including spaces, punctuation, etc.) for each question. This is approximately the equivalent of 600 words per question. Strong essays provide enough detail to fully answer the question without being verbose. Strong essays answer the questions concisely and clearly.

**Question:** How important is the quality of my writing?
**Answer:** It is very important. The essay questions are one of the key pieces of information the faculty considering your admission will review. It is very important to use complete sentences, proper grammar, punctuation, spelling, and other mechanics of written English. Strong essays often undergo revision and proofreading.

**Question:** If my writing isn’t clear, you’ll understand what I’m trying to say, right?
**Answer:** No. It is important to write clearly and to articulate each point you want to make. Your ideas should be expressed explicitly.

**Question:** Do I have to respond to the whole question?
**Answer:** Yes. Be sure to fully answer each question. Some questions have multiple parts. Make sure you are addressing each part in your answer.

Résumé

**Question:** What if I have gaps in my work or school history?
**Answer:** If your résumé shows gaps in work history or school history possibly due to a variety of life experiences or working in a non-social work related field, address those gaps in your personal statement.

References

**Question:** Who should I include as references?
**Answer:** Strong applications typically include at least one academic and one professional reference. The third reference can be another academic or professional reference. If you have been out of school for more than 5 years, it may be more difficult to obtain an academic
reference. Do your best to obtain the most appropriate references available. This helps the faculty considering your application to understand your potential to be successful in a graduate level program and in the field of social work. Choose references who can accurately and directly speak about your past work and your potential in this program. References should be able to speak to your ability to succeed academically and/or to your ability practice as a social worker. We would advise against references with whom your relationship is a personal friendship, counselor/client, or faith leader/parishioner.

**General Questions**

**Question**: Can life or work experience count towards credits for program?  
**Answer**: Previous life or work experience cannot be substituted for course credit.

**Question**: Which application should I fill out?  
**Answer**: We take applications for multiple programs each year. It is very important that you fill out the correct application for the program to which you want to apply. You may only apply to one program. If you are having trouble identifying which application to choose, contact Sue Thompson at 509 359 6485. When calling, be specific about which program you are hoping to apply to.

**Question**: What if my overall GPA is lower than a 3.0?  
**Answer**: Overall GPA is one of the primary factors considered in the admissions process. Students with an overall GPA of less than 3.0 may find it more difficult to be successful in a graduate level program. Additionally, Graduate Studies only allows admission of a small number of applicants with an overall GPA of less than 3.0. If your overall GPA is less than 3.0, you may be asked to write a rationale explaining why you should be admitted to the program.

**Question**: Is there an interview?  
**Answer**: No. There is not an interview.

**Question**: Doesn’t everyone get in?  
**Answer**: No. The application process is competitive. We receive many strong applications each year. Not everyone who applies will be admitted to the program.

**Question**: Is there an appeals process if I don’t get in?  
**Answer**: No. There is not an appeals process.