

# UTSA Department of Social Work

## MSW Narrative Statement

The MSW Narrative Statement is an *essential* requirement of the application to the UTSA Social Work Program. The narrative, which should be no longer than *five double-spaced pages*, should address *each* of the questions found below. Each question *must* be answered for the Narrative Statement to be considered complete.

1. Described how you believe relationships and experiences (personal, social, familial, therapeutic, and professional) have developed your interest in and suitability for the professional practice of social work.
2. What significant experiences have you had in giving or receiving help that have directed you toward social work? How have you solved problems and/or struggled with issues and what impact have these experiences had in general in shaping your values base?
3. What do you consider your personal strengths, needs for growth, and limitations in relation to your development as a professional social worker?
4. What contributions do you hope to make as a professional social worker?
5. We expect students to understand and respect human diversity and promote social and economic justice through culturally competent practice with diverse communities within an inter-professional and global context. Take time to review the vision, mission, goals, and core values of the Department of Social Work. Describe how you believe they fit with your desire to obtain the MSW degree at UTSA.
6. Your graduate studies may require a focus on an issue of social and economic justice. Discuss a current social and economic issue of personal interest relevant to the practice of social work. Share your ideas of how the problem may be addressed or prevented, and what role you might play as a social worker.
7. Discuss your plans for employment or other responsibilities that you anticipate during the course of study; plans for financing your education; and an assessment of your ability to carry out all responsibilities in addition to your graduate courses.
8. The field education component of social work is an opportunity for the student to integrate theory and practice. We rely on social service related organizations to provide opportunities for meeting the requirement. Agencies are often limited in solely providing evenings and weekend-only placements. If you intend to work 30 hours or more hours outside the home during the MSW program, discuss your plans to accomplish the minimum of 15 hours a week for field practicum in light of these limitations within social service organizations. Indicate creative ways that you could complete some hours during the Monday through Friday 8-5 timeframe.
9. If your GPA does not meet the minimum standards for admission, the Department of Social Work must petition the Graduate School for a conditional admission. Please indicate special circumstances that would support a petition for a conditional admission. Discuss how, if granted admission to the MSW program, you plan to address potential obstacles to successfully completing the program.
10. For Advanced Standing applicants who have Bachelor of Social Work (BSW degrees only): Discuss what you have done since obtaining your BSW to remain current regarding the knowledge, values, and skills needed to be a competent social work professional. For more information, see Texas Statutes Occupation Code, Chapter 505.451.