

WKU BSW Program Personal/Professional Statement

Instructions

Please review this entire document and answer each question in a separate essay response. Your response to each question should be approximately **150-200 words**, making your total response 450-600 words. Please answer the following questions in your own words and based on your own experiences. Do not use ChatGPT or other AI tools to write or rewrite your responses. We want to hear your voice, your experiences, and your genuine interest in pursuing social work. Your responses should reflect your own thinking, writing, and perspective.

Requirements

- Answer all prompts completely and thoughtfully in your own words.
- **Citations:**
 - Use **at least two sources**, across your essay responses, and cite each one **in APA 7th edition format** both in the text and on your References page.
 - One citation must be the **NASW Code of Ethics** and the second may be a scholarly source of your choosing, such as a peer-reviewed journal article, government website, or academic text that relates to your topic (for example, you might cite available statistics on child welfare from the Children's Bureau if that is what you choose to address in question #2).
 - Follow **APA 7th edition formatting guidelines** for citations and references. This includes **both in-text citations** and a **References** page at the end of your document that lists your sources
- Use clear, professional writing and proofread your work before submitting.

For help with APA formatting, visit the **Purdue OWL APA Guide**, specifically the **example References** page and the tab on in-text citations:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html

1. Social workers are guided by core ethical principles such as service, dignity and worth of the person, integrity, and social justice. Outside of a general desire to “help people,” explain why you chose social work as a profession. In your response, discuss relevant personal strengths and connect them to these core social work values. Please utilize the NASW Code of Ethics to answer this question and use an in-text citation. [Code of Ethics](#)
2. Social workers engage with complex social problems that affect individuals, families, and communities. Select ONE pressing social issue (such as homelessness, child welfare,

substance use, intimate partner violence). Using the NASW Code of Ethics, identify and apply three ethical principles that you believe are important when working with this population. Explain why you think each principle is important.

3. Describe how you have managed multiple responsibilities and explain what this experience has taught you about your time management, organization, and accountability as a student and emerging professional.

1. Content Knowledge & Understanding of Social Work (25 points)

Criteria	Exemplary (21–25)	Proficient (16–20)	Developing (11–15)	Beginning (0–10)
Understanding of the profession	Demonstrates clear, accurate understanding of social work roles, values, and scope using scholarly support	Demonstrates general understanding with minor inaccuracies	Understanding is superficial or partially inaccurate	Demonstrates little to no understanding of social work
Use of social work concepts	Integrates key concepts appropriately (e.g., social justice, ethics, person-in-environment)	References concepts with limited depth	Mentions concepts without explanation	Does not reference relevant concepts

2. Critical Thinking & Application (25 points)

Criteria	Exemplary (21–25)	Proficient (16–20)	Developing (11–15)	Beginning (0–10)
Analysis and synthesis	Effectively analyzes issues and synthesizes sources with original thought	Some analysis; relies more on summary than synthesis	Limited analysis; mostly descriptive	Lacks analysis or critical engagement
Application to practice or self	Clearly connects theory to practice	Makes general connections	Connections are unclear or underdeveloped	No meaningful application

Criteria	Exemplary (21–25)	Proficient (16–20)	Developing (11–15)	Beginning (0–10)
	and/or personal reflection			

3. Use of Scholarly Sources (20 points)

Criteria	Exemplary (17–20)	Proficient (13–16)	Developing (9–12)	Beginning (0–8)
Source quality	Uses required number of peer-reviewed or assigned scholarly sources	Uses scholarly sources with minor quality issues	Relies on limited or mixed-quality sources	Uses non-scholarly or inappropriate sources
Integration of sources	Sources are smoothly integrated and clearly support arguments	Sources generally support ideas	Sources are used inconsistently or without explanation	Sources are poorly integrated or misused

4. APA Formatting & Citation (15 points)

Criteria	Exemplary (13–15)	Proficient (10–12)	Developing (6–9)	Beginning (0–5)
In-text citations	Accurate APA in-text citations throughout	Minor APA citation errors	Frequent citation errors	Citations missing or incorrect
Reference list	Complete, accurate APA reference list	Minor formatting errors	Multiple formatting errors	Reference list missing or incorrect

5. Academic Writing & Organization (15 points)

Criteria	Exemplary (13–15)	Proficient (10–12)	Developing (6–9)	Beginning (0–5)
Clarity & organization	Well-organized, logical flow, clear thesis	Generally clear with minor issues	Organization is inconsistent	Disorganized or difficult to follow
Tone & mechanics	Consistently academic tone; minimal grammar errors	Minor grammar or tone issues	Frequent grammar or tone issues	Writing interferes with meaning

Summary Performance Levels (Optional for Gatekeeping)

- **90–100:** Admission recommended without conditions
- **80–89:** Require a second reviewer
- **70–79:** Resubmission required
- **Below 70:** Admission not recommended at this time

Admissions Essay Review and Resubmission Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure a fair, inclusive, and educational application process for students applying to the undergraduate social work program. The application essays are designed to assess applicants' readiness for the program, including professionalism, work ethic, ethical awareness, and alignment with social work values.

Essay Evaluation

All admissions essays are evaluated using standardized rubric assessing clarity of response, alignment with prompt expectations, professionalism, use of scholarly sources, and adherence to APA formatting guidelines.

If an applicant's response to one or more essay questions does not meet the minimum rubric standards, the applicant may be notified in writing and provided with specific, individualized feedback identifying the areas in need of improvement. When appropriate, the admissions committee may offer the opportunity to submit a revised response. Any revision must be received within the stated deadline and must demonstrate sufficient improvement to meet rubric expectations. Failure to submit a revision within the designated timeframe, or submission of a revision that continues to fall below established standards, may adversely affect the admission decision.

In addition, the admissions committee reserves the right to require an interview to further assess an applicant's readiness and overall preparedness for the program when essay responses do not meet minimum criteria.

Decision-Making

If the response to any essay question does not meet rubric expectations, the admission committee reserves the right to deny admission to the BSW program.

Final admission decisions are based on a holistic review of the application, including the original and revised essays (if applicable), academic record, and overall readiness for the program. The second-chance process is intended to support learning and access while maintaining program standards.

This process is intended to support applicant success while maintaining academic and professional standards consistent with social work education.