

Instructions for Application for Social Work Major

Each of the following must be completed in order for the application to the Social Work major:

- Completion of Introduction to Social Work, with a grade of C or better
- Completion of 30 hours of shadowing (“Introductory Agency Exposure”) of a credentialed bachelor level social worker at a local agency
- Score of at least 80% on evaluation (by agency supervisor) of professional behavior during Introductory Agency Exposure
- Demonstration of professionalism, as evidenced by:
 - Assessment of interpersonal relationships and performance during the Introductory Agency Exposure, as reported by agency supervisor
 - Average of at least 80% on Professional Behavior Assessments completed during SWRK101-Introduction to Social Work
- Application for Social Work Major, Parts I, II, III
- Instructor Recommendation Rubric from a non-social work faculty member (from Grand View if currently enrolled; otherwise, from home institution).
- Successful personal interview at the discretion of social work faculty
- 2.5 GPA in all Grand View courses at time of application
- 2.5 GPA in all required prerequisite courses, with a minimum of a C in each

If not currently enrolled at Grand View, must also do the following:

- Apply to Grand View University (no application fee)
- Provide transcripts for current and all previous colleges or universities attended

Evaluation of Application for Admission & Notification of Decision

Students may apply in the term in which they are enrolled in SWRK 101-Introduction to Social Work as long as they have completed the required prerequisite courses, and will have at least sophomore standing by the following fall.

Students who have completed SWRK 101 but not yet completed required prerequisites may apply in term in which those prerequisites are expected to be completed. Students accepted to the program begin enrollment in classes toward the major in the fall.

Applications for the major are submitted through an online portal on the Grand View website.

Applications are reviewed by the Program Director and Field Education Director, and assessed based on *thoroughness, thoughtfulness of reflection, potential as social work student, and quality of writing.*

Students are notified in writing via US mail letter of the status of their application by January 1 (for applications received in the fall), by May 1 (for applications received in the spring) and by August 1 (for applications received in the summer).

Students may be a) accepted, b) accepted provisionally, or c) not accepted.

- Students who are *accepted* may enroll in additional social work courses, beginning the following fall.
- Students who are *accepted provisionally* will be provided with information as to the reason for the decision as well as what the student needs to do to remediate the provisional status. Provisional acceptance may be granted for students for the following reasons:
 - Writing skills in need of remediation. The student is expected to enroll in and successfully complete (grade of C or better) ENGL 256.
 - Average of scores on Professional Behavior Assessment, completed during SWRK 101-Introduction to Social Work, is between 70-79%. The student is expected to complete an interview with the Program Director and/or Field Education Director and develop a plan to

- improve the Professional Behavior Assessment score to 80% or greater in the next semester in which the student is enrolled in social work courses.
- Concerns noted in the Instructor Recommendation for Social Work Applicant. The student is expected to work with her/his advisor to develop a plan to remediate the concerns, which will be reviewed after one full semester after the initial application for the program.
 - Students who are *not accepted* will be provided the reasons for the decision. Students may file a grievance as to the admission decision, following the procedure discussed in the policies and procedures section of the Social Work Student Handbook.

Parts I and II – General Information

The questions below are provided so you may gather information if needed to respond to them within the application process. Responses will be entered into text fields within the online application.

1. List any volunteer or paid experience you have had that is relevant to the field of social work. Include a description of your activities, and how this work influenced your interest in social work.
2. Do you have any personal concerns – either past or present – that might impact your work as a social worker? These may include learning or physical disabilities, substance abuse and/or recovery, emotional or behavioral difficulties, etc. Identify your current and future plans for addressing these concerns. You are not required to share this information, but doing so will allow social work faculty to provide reasonable accommodations and support you as a student both personally and professionally.
3. Have you ever been dismissed from an undergraduate program for academic or nonacademic reasons? If so, please describe the situation.
4. Have you ever been convicted of a felony? If the answer is yes, please describe the situation. Having a felony record does not automatically mean you will not be accepted into the social work program. However, certain criminal convictions can prevent you from placement in certain field education settings, and can impact your ability to be licensed. Please feel free to discuss response to this question in person with the social work faculty.

Instructions for Personal Essay

The questions below are to be addressed in essay format, using no more than three double-spaced pages. Upload the completed essay to the application portal.

1. Discuss your personal qualities and values relevant to the field of social work, including what motivates you to pursue a social work career, and why are you choosing social work instead of another avenue for helping people.
2. How do your own values correspond with the values listed in the NASW Code of Ethics?
3. Describe two or three formative situations in your life and how they have influenced your decision to pursue a career in social work.
4. What experience do you have where you have worked with people who are economically or socially disadvantaged, marginalized, or oppressed? If you have not had experience in this area, what have you learned so far in your coursework or other sources of information about how to work with these populations?
5. Which area of social work (individuals, families, organizations, or communities) and/or specific population of clients most interests you? Why?
6. What would you like to accomplish as a social worker?