Statement of Purpose

At the top of the document, write:
Last Name, First Name, University ID
The MSW Center location to which you wish to apply
Statement of Purpose

Part I – Experiences

1. Write an essay that does not exceed 1,000 words.
2. Describe:
   a. Experiences (personal, professional, academic) that influenced your decision to be or become a social worker
   b. Paid, volunteer, practicum, and life experience relevant to social work
   c. Describe experiences working with people who have experienced oppression
   d. Strengths you would bring to the School and the profession
   e. Challenges you have faced or are facing that may affect your readiness for graduate study and/or social work practice
   f. How you will balance graduate study with other responsibilities

Part II – Goals

1. Write an essay that is about 350 words. Do not exceed 400 words.
2. Describe
   a. Areas of your development that you will focus on during the master’s program, including your practicum/practica
   b. Short and long term professional social work goals
   c. Highlight goals related to creating a more just society
   d. How the University of Iowa School of Social Work curriculum and faculty will facilitate your goals

Name the file “Statement of Purpose” and upload it to your Admissions Profile in MyUI.

Additional essay required for 41 s.h. Accelerated Advanced Standing Program applicants ONLY. Do not complete this section if you are applying to the MSW 48 or 60 s. h. program.

1. Add the heading “Accelerated Advanced Standing Program.”
2. Write an essay that is about 750 words.
3. In addition to Parts I and II, describe your:
   a. Academic readiness. Provide examples of your readiness and ability to complete the accelerated program.
   b. Research experience. Describe your prior experience with research. Include academic courses and field or professional practice and your interests in developing knowledge and skill for research-informed practice.
   c. Professional readiness. Describe how your experience has prepared you for a masters-level practicum. Describe how your field, professional, and other experience has prepared you for your preferred masters-level practicum setting or area.
Additional essay required for Online MSW Program applicants ONLY. Do not complete this section if you are applying to the MSW program in Iowa City, Des Moines, Quad Cities, or Sioux City.

1. Add the heading “Online MSW Program.”
2. Write an essay that is about 750 words.
3. In addition to Parts I and II, describe your:
   a. Academic readiness. Please take the “Are You Ready for Online” self-assessment [https://distance.uiowa.edu/are-you-ready-online](https://distance.uiowa.edu/are-you-ready-online). Describe your assessment results and how they will inform your approach to successfully completing the online program. Describe what you learned about specific areas, such as your comfort or skill level with technology, your time management, or managing/enhancing your virtual relationships.
   b. Online learning benefits. Describe how the University of Iowa’s Online MSW Program will benefit you. Explain how an online program, rather than a classroom-based program, is a good fit for you? Specifically, describe barriers that make it difficult or impossible for you to enroll in our other learning centers (Des Moines, Iowa City, Quad Cities, or Sioux City).
   c. Structure and design of the program. Review the description of the required Summer Institutes, the format of the online classes, the two meetings per year with your geographic learning community and mentor, and practicum requirements. Describe your plan for achieving and maintaining academic success given this program structure, including identifying the resources you will draw upon to be successful. Consider resources such as academic, personal, professional, financial, and technical. Describe any modifications you will need to make to your schedule and personal circumstances to be successful.

The University of Iowa prohibits discrimination in employment, educational programs, and activities on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, disability, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, service in the U.S. military, sexual orientation, gender identity, associational preferences, or any other classification that deprives the person of consideration as an individual. The university also affirms its commitment to providing equal opportunities and equal access to university facilities. For additional information on nondiscrimination policies, contact the Director, Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, The University of Iowa, 202 Jessup Hall, Iowa City, IA, 52242-1316, 319-335-0705 (voice), 319-335-0697 (TDD), diversity@uiowa.edu.

Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to attend all University of Iowa-sponsored events. If you are a person with a disability who requires a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this program, please contact the School of Social Work Student Services Center, in advance at ssw_office@iowa.uiowa.edu or phone: 319 335-1250.