**School of Social Work Admission Essays Instructions**

These essays are your opportunity to help us understand more about you, who you are, and what you hope to accomplish as part of our School of Social Work and your career.

You must complete five required essays (1, 2a, 2b, 3, & 4).

If your current overall GPA is below the required minimum 2.50, we strongly encourage you to complete the optional essay that allows you to share any information about your GPA you think would be helpful for the admissions committee to know.

For students who are reapplying to the School, you must complete a required essay describing what you have done to strengthen your application since you last applied.

Each essay has a maximum number of words allowed per response. Please adhere to the word limit for each essay. Compose your statements in a word-processing program to take advantage of spelling and grammar tools, as well as the word count. Proofread once more to make sure there are no odd characters or line breaks.

If you are reapplying to the School of Social Work, your responses should be different from those previously submitted. The admission committee will review your prior application and statements.

Upload your essays to the ESSAYS section in the application.

Use the Admission Essay Template at the end of this document to submit your essays. Save the template separately from essay instructions, and upload only the template. Name your essay document as follows: Addams Jane Essays.docx OR Addams Jane Essays.pdf

**Required Essay 1**

We are interested in how you selected social work as your academic and career path. Describe the personal, volunteer, and/or paid work experiences and/or community engagement/activism activities that best illustrate your informed decision to pursue a social work career. **There is a 400-word limit to this essay**.

**Required Essays 2a & 2b (applicant must respond to both a & b)**

You are a social work student in a field placement at a community organization talking with another student in your shared office space after an interaction you had with a client that you felt was difficult.  You are discussing the details of this client interaction with your fellow student.  In a frustrated tone, you say, “My supervisor doesn’t know what they are doing to assign me such a difficult client when I am just a student!”  The next morning you get an email from your supervisor informing you that a community partner overheard your conversation while they were waiting for a meeting in the hallway. The community partner reported being “taken aback” at what they overheard. The supervisor says, “We need to meet at 10 am today. I expect you to come prepared to discuss what the code of ethics says about your behavior.”

**A)** As you reflect on what happened, what specific ethical standards of the NASW Code of Ethics apply to your behavior in this situation?  Be sure to cite the particular *ethical standards* from the code and describe how they apply.  The Code of Ethics may be found online at: [https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-English.](https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-English)  **There is a 250-word limit to this essay.**

**B)** Your supervisor’s role is to help you behave ethically so you can continue moving forward in your placement. Your supervisor will expect you to describe the potential impacts of your behavior and how you will address these impacts.  Describe what you learned from this experience, the impacts of your behavior, and the steps you will take to remedy these impacts. Include the personal skills and attributes you would bring to this situation. **There is a 300-word limit to this essay**.

**Required Essay 3**

Cultural humility is a humble and respectful attitude toward individuals of other cultures that pushes us to challenge our own cultural biases, realize we cannot possibly know everything about other cultures, and approach learning about other cultures as a lifelong goal and process.  Developing cultural humility is necessary to be able to recognize strengths in a person’s diversity and to recognize racism and harmful prejudice.  As a social work student, you will embark on this journey of cultural humility.  Based on your life experiences generally, and experiences with people who are different than you, what work do you need to do to begin and continue your journey. Provide an example of an experience you have had where you know you need to grow in your cultural humility.  **There is a 250-word limit to this essay.**

**Required Essay 4**

Please include anything else about yourself that is not found elsewhere in your application that you feel would be important for us to consider.  In particular, describe a social problem or social justice issue you are eager to learn more about.  **There is a 250-word limit to this essay.**

**(Optional Essay)** If your current overall GPA is below the required minimum 2.50, we will still consider your application for admission. If admitted to the program, you will be required to maintain a 3.00 GPA in social work major courses. Please share any information about your GPA that would be helpful for the committee to consider. **There is a 200-word limit to this essay.**

**Reapplication Essay** (*Respond to this prompt only if you have applied for admission to the School of Social Work in the past.)* Describe what you have done to strengthen your social work application since your last application.  Include relevant academic, volunteer, employment, and personal experiences.  **There is a 250-word limit to this essay**.

**Admission Essay Template**

**NAME:**

**Required Essay 1 (400-word limit**)

**Required Essay 2A (250-word limit)**

**Required Essay 2B (300-word limit)**

**Required Essay 3 (250-word limit)**

**Required Essay 4 (250-word limit)**

**GPA Below 2.50 Optional Essay (200-word limit)**

**Required Reapplication Essay** (*Respond to this prompt only if you have applied for admission to the School of Social Work in the past.)* **(250-word limit)**