

Statement of Purpose

The Statement of Purpose will be evaluated based on how well our program will help you meet your goals and how well your goals and interests appear to align with the social work profession.

Begin your Statement of Purpose with these identifying points at the top of the document:

Last Name, First Name, University ID

The MSW Center location to which you wish to apply

Statement of Purpose

Please address the following points in a **two-page, double-spaced statement.**

1. Describe your **short and long term professional social work goals**, including potential areas of interest and goals related to creating a more just society. Examples may include:
 - a. the client population you want to work with;
 - b. whether you want to work at the micro, mezzo or macro levels;
 - c. the type of social change you want to advocate for; and
 - d. the environment you want to work in.
2. Of the many options you have for an advanced degree, discuss why you are choosing social work. Discuss your reflections concerning areas of strength that you bring to the profession, and areas of development that you will focus on during the master's program.
3. Describe your plan for achieving and maintaining academic success given the program structure of the center to which you're applying ([Des Moines](#), [Iowa City](#), [Sioux City](#) or [Online](#)), identifying the resources you will draw upon to be successful, 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.

Name the file "Statement of Purpose" and upload it to your Admissions Profile in [MyUI](#).

Required for One-year Advanced Standing program in Des Moines or Iowa City ONLY, append an additional essay to Statement of Purpose.

Do not complete this section if you are applying to the: two-year, 36 s.h. Advanced Standing program in Des Moines or Iowa City; the 54 s.h. Regular Standing program in Des Moines or Iowa City; or the Online or Sioux City programs.

1. Add the heading "**One-year Advanced Standing Program**"
2. Write an additional, **up to one-page** essay describing:
 - a. The programs, agencies or organizations you are considering for your specialized practicum, identifying the agencies by name and the learning opportunities you seek.
 - b. Lessons from your social work experience thus far that inform your identified practice interests and the learning opportunities you seek.

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 <https://ocrc.uiowa.edu/> (319) 335-0705.

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.

3/20/2026