

**The Master of Social Work Program
The Ethelyn R. Strong School of Social Work
Norfolk State University**

Personal Statement Guidelines

The personal statement is an important part of the application for admission to the School of Social Work and should be carefully prepared. The page limit is 5-6 pages single-spaced typed in 12-point font.

The following questions should be addressed in the order listed:

1. What relationships and/or experiences influenced your decision to enter the field of Social Work?
2. What are your career objectives, and explain how you envision using your graduate level Social Work education? (Include details about your philosophy of Social Work practice, the population you would like to work with, and the type of intervention you would like to provide)
3. Describe a major social problem and your interest in addressing the problem. (Be specific in discussing your perspective on the impact of this problem on citizens and your anticipated role as a change agent on the individual, group, and community/organizational levels of change)
4. Briefly describe an ethical dilemma that you have experienced and how you dealt with the dilemma. (Relate to the Social Work Code of Ethics)
5. What are your experiences with oppression, poverty, diversity, and discrimination? (Describe your interest/commitment in addressing these problems)
6. Describe your experience(s) in providing and receiving professional helping services.
7. What do you consider your personal strengths/competencies and limitations for the practice of Social Work?

Résumé Guidelines

Please provide a **detailed resume**, in chronological order detailing:

Paid Social Work Experiences (indicate dates of employment, whether the position was full time or part time, type of work, name and title of supervisor, and the nature of services provided)

Volunteer Experiences (indicate the dates of services, if part time or full time, type of services provided, and the name and title of the supervisor)

Other Paid Work Experiences (including military service)

The resume should include a description of leadership activities and language competencies.