



Autobiographical Statement

INSTRUCTIONS

The Graduate Social Work program at Asbury College is preparing advanced practice social workers and recognizes its obligations to clients, colleagues, the profession, and society to select appropriate candidates for graduate study. To assist in this process, the Admissions committee requires an autobiographical statement for use in evaluating both the applicant's readiness for graduate study in social work, and graduate level writing skills. This is a confidential statement that is read only by the Admissions committee, which is made up of faculty within the Social Work program. The statement is to be approximately 1000-1500 words, typewritten and double-spaced. The applicant's name is to be in the upper right corner of each page, and the statement is to be stapled in the upper left corner. The statement is to be sent or delivered to the Office of MSW Studies. The autobiographical statement is to be organized in the following five sections:

1. Career Plans and Objectives

Discuss how you became interested in the social work profession. How have friends, family members, etc., influenced your decision to pursue a career in social work? What are your goals for graduate study and your career? What are your specific career objectives?

2. Life and Relationships

Address your relational systems, with special emphasis on immediate and extended family, and friends. What experiences have you had in a helping role? How do you evaluate your capacity to relate to clients, supervisors, and colleagues? How do you handle working with people whose opinions and lifestyles differ from your own? (You may use specific experiences to illustrate your answers where you wish.)

3. Social Commitment and Values

What social problems do you perceive as the most important in society today? How have you been involved in efforts to promote social and economic justice? What experiences have you had with culturally diverse communities?

4. Personal Strengths and Weaknesses

Assess your personal and professional strengths. In what areas do you see a need for growth and change? Reflecting on the program's mission and Christian context, discuss how graduate study at Asbury College would assist you in this process of growth and change.

5. Academic Experience

Address your undergraduate and graduate academic experiences to date, commenting on previous college grades as an index of your abilities. How do you feel you will handle graduate (M.S.W.) work?