MSW Personal Statement

As social workers we work with people who are facing multiple, complex challenges that are not easily resolved. It can be challenging but rewarding work for individuals whose goals and approach to life fit with the profession. Your personal statement is an important part of your overall application and provides the admissions committee information about your fit with the UNR School of Social Work MSW Program. When addressing these questions, please be sensitive to issues of diversity, power, and privilege.

Prepare a personal statement (five-pages, single-spaced, 12-point font) that addresses each of the following points.

Discuss.....

- the life, work, or volunteer experiences that led you to choose social work. *We are interested in how your experiences have demonstrated commitment to the values of the social work profession.*

- a time when you provided leadership. *We understand that leadership can take many forms.* Talk about the challenges, your impact, and what you learned from the experience.

- when you made a difficult decision that was based on your beliefs about right and wrong. *We want to understand how you make difficult decisions when there are “no right answers” or when you can’t rely on others to tell you what to do.*

- when new information or experiences changed your mind about an important social or moral issue. *Share with us a time when a life experience challenged a previously held belief or point of view.*

- the kinds of unearned opportunities and obstacles have you experienced because of your age, gender, race/ethnicity, ability, socioeconomic class, and so on.