

MSW Program Personal Statement Essay Guidelines

The essay is an essential aspect of the admission process and will be carefully assessed in order to make an informed decision regarding your acceptance and/or standing in the program. Please follow the Formatting Guidelines and carefully address each item in the directions.

FORMATTING GUIDELINES

- a) Use APA-style format including Times Roman 12-point font, double-spaced. See <https://apastyle.apa.org/> for information.
- b) Professionally written with evidence of forethought, carefully proofed and convincing language and phrasing.
- c) Number each page and include your name on the title page.
- d) Maximum of 3 pages.

DIRECTIONS

Write an autobiographical statement explaining why you would like to become a social worker. Your response should provide a *full description* of characteristics that distinguish you as a potential candidate for IWU's MSW program. The academic review committee is interested in evidence of your ability to synthesize professional/personal experiences through the following statements. Please address each item listed below thoroughly in your essay.

1. Describe your motivation in seeking an MSW degree. Include personal or family experiences, relationships, cultural and religious values and practices that have had a direct impact on your decision to obtain your MSW.
2. Please review the IWU MSW mission and goals (see bottom section). Discuss how your life and work experience, personal values and goals fit with the mission and goals of IWU's MSW online degree program. Be specific and use examples when possible.
 - a. Also, because IWU is a Christ centered university, the MSW program integrates Christian faith and perspective throughout the program. You can find more information regarding our faith integration approach here: <https://www.indwes.edu/adult-graduate/programs/master-social-work/faith%20integration> Please specifically discuss in your essay your interest in attending an MSW program with a Christian perspective or your thoughts on participating in such a program.
3. Describe your preparation and readiness for IWU's MSW community-based field internship including how you will manage the additional time required for completing

internship hours and classwork while balancing other life commitments. Please follow the following link for field placement information: <https://www.indwes.edu/adult-graduate/programs/master-social-work/field-education>

MSW Program Mission

The mission of the IWU MSW Program is to prepare social work students for advanced social work practice with an emphasis on clinical skills and provide opportunities for students to become world changers who have a desire to integrate personal faith and education to maximize their ability to be of service to fellow human beings. The program is committed to creating a personal, professional, and innovative experience in the online environment.

MSW Program Goals

The MSW program at Indiana Wesleyan University prepares students to achieve the following goals:

- To prepare culturally competent students for advanced level social work practice, including work with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.
- To equip students to integrate social work ethics and personal faith with academic excellence and research-informed practice.
- To equip students for advanced social work practice, and leadership informed by theoretical perspectives, biblical truth, knowledge of human behavior and research.
- To prepare students to promote individual and community resilience and well-being through respect for racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity.
- To equip students to advocate for human rights and justice for marginalized and oppressed people.

****Applicants essay submissions will be scored on the following areas:**

Content: Clear responses to all three required areas of content. The ability to provide relevant and specific details that demonstrate your ability to address the required areas of content in your personal statement clearly reflecting your readiness for a master's level social work program.

Clarity: The ability to communicate clearly and coherently in your writing including organization, flow and convincing expression of ideas in all required areas.

Mechanical: The ability to complete the personal statement with few grammatical, spelling, punctuation and APA formatting errors.