School of Social Work
BA Admissions
2017 - 2018
September 1, 2016

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in The University of Iowa School of Social Work. Enclosed are information and application materials for our undergraduate program in social work. Please read this information carefully. If you decide that you are interested in pursuing a bachelor’s degree in social work, we suggest that you discuss the social work profession with a member of the social work faculty. We also strongly suggest that you explore what it means to be a social worker through volunteer work. You may find a list of possible volunteer sites online: [http://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork/resources/volunteer-opportunities](http://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork/resources/volunteer-opportunities)

Applicants are encouraged to discuss their future career plans with an academic advisor. Students who decide to apply to the program may declare their major as “social work interest” (42p). However, students majoring in other disciplines may also apply to the major. In other words, you do not need to be a 42p major to apply to the program. The advantage in declaring 42p is that you will be allowed to participate in the social work student association and school activities. Students who have more than 72 semester hours earned may not declare 42p. You must declare a different major and still make application to the Social Work Program. We change your major to Social Work if admitted. After completing 24 semester hours, social work interest students are assigned to Denise Barnard for advising: [denise-barnard@uiowa.edu](mailto:denise-barnard@uiowa.edu). If you are not 42p and require academic advising regarding the social work program requirements contact me, [amy-c-butler@uiowa.edu](mailto:amy-c-butler@uiowa.edu), 335-1277. You may also contact Kate Kemp, Program Administrator and Admissions Director [kate-kemp@uiowa.edu](mailto:kate-kemp@uiowa.edu), 335-1254 or find our program requirements and materials on our website: [http://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork/undergraduate-program](http://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork/undergraduate-program).

The BA in Social Work is a professional degree and admission to the program is limited. Your social work interest advisor [denise-barnard@uiowa.edu](mailto:denise-barnard@uiowa.edu) or Kate Kemp or I will assist you in understanding pre-admission requirements. The admissions coordinator will assist you with the application process. Generally students apply to the program in their sophomore year after completing SSW:1022:0001 Social Justice and Social Welfare in the United States, or SSW:2222:0EXZ Intro to Social Work. It is possible to apply as a junior and complete the social work courses in three semesters, (the final semester is a summer internship), if most other requirements have already been met. Required social work courses are restricted to students officially admitted to the program.

Please be aware that social work students are only admitted to the program to begin classes in the Fall semester. The application deadline for Fall 2017 admission is February 15th. The Admissions Committee does not accept late applications. Please feel free to attend one of our informational meetings on Wednesday, January 18th room 332 NH at noon, or Thursday, January 19th room 302 NH at 4.

We are pleased that you are considering a degree in social work. If you have any questions concerning application requirements, the application process, or to assure that your application is complete, you may contact Susan Dirks, the School of Social Work Admissions Coordinator, [susan-dirks@uiowa.edu](mailto:susan-dirks@uiowa.edu), (319)335-1255.

Sincerely,

Amy Butler
Amy Butler,
Associate Professor and BASW Program Director
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Criteria for Admission for Fall 2017:

Applicants to the BA Social Work program must have met the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) requirements and be admitted to CLAS. Students are admitted to the CLAS on the basis of three criteria: completion of a set of high school unit requirements; high school class rank or college transfer grade-point average; and ACT/SAT results or a combination of high school/college records and standardized test scores. These requirements are further explained on the web: http://www.uiowa.edu/admissions/undergrad/index.html and in the current University of Iowa General Catalog: http://catalog.registrar.uiowa.edu/registrar/catalog/liberalartsandsciences/socialwork/ Applicants to the School of Social Work must meet additional criteria detailed below. Due to class size restrictions, not all students who meet the criteria are admitted when the applicant pool is large.

I. School of Social Work Criteria for Selective Admission for BA Social Work

A. Academic qualifications

1. A cumulative GPA of 2.50 (on a 4.0 scale) at the time of admission. Applicants who do not meet the minimum GPA but demonstrate strengths/potential in other areas may be granted consideration for admission on an individual basis.

2. A grade of C or above in SSW:1022 Social Justice and Social Welfare in the United States, or SSW:2222 Introduction to Social Work or comparable course(es) taken in another college and approved by the School of Social Work.

B. Application form and personal statement

Completion of a current application form and a comprehensive statement which evidences the applicant's personal qualities and values that are considered essential for the professional practice of social work, including: good intellectual capacity and analytical skills combined with an ability to work constructively with others; good communication skills, judgment, adaptability, sense of responsibility, resourcefulness, caring and compassionate qualities; and a personal commitment to social justice, empowering individuals, and serving underrepresented groups. Applicants' willingness and interest in addressing social justice issues that affect human beings as a consequence of oppression, poverty, marginalization and alienation because of the intersection of multiple factors, including those identified by CSWE: class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, immigration status, political ideology, race, sex, sexual orientation, and religious, non-religious or spiritual beliefs is fundamental to a successful experience in the School. These qualities are to be evidenced in the application.

The Personal Statement is a significant part of the application materials. This document should be approximately 5 pages (double spaced) and must be typed. Note that your Personal Statement itself will be used to evaluate your written communication ability. The Personal Statement should address the following qualities and competencies:

PART I:
- A discussion of how paid, volunteer, and life experiences relevant to social work have influenced the applicant’s decision to pursue or continue a career in social work at the B.A. level.
- A description of any experience relative to working with those different from the applicant in background or other characteristics and any experience relative to problems of economically and socially disadvantaged, marginalized or oppressed people.
- Discussion of how these experiences demonstrate that your personal values are congruent with the Social Work Code of Ethics.*Code of Ethics may be found online: www.socialworkers.org/pubs/Code/code.asp

PART II:
- Discussion of the applicant's motivation for, expectations regarding, and commitment to the social work program at The University of Iowa. Discuss any factors which have assisted toward the decision to enter or continue in the field of Social Work, and any experiences which the applicant believes will be helpful as a student in Social Work, including: 1) employment; 2) education; 3) special interests; 4) family influences; 5) volunteer service, and/or other.
• Identification of particular assets that the applicant would bring to the School and to the profession, as well as areas in which the applicant would most like to grow academically and professionally.
• Discussion of the applicant’s readiness to undertake study toward a professional degree and anticipated satisfaction or challenges with regard to the choice of the social work profession.
• Identification of short and long term goals as a professional social worker.

C. The accuracy and quality of writing in this statement will be evaluated as evidence of the Candidate’s potential for professional written communication.
D. Materials must be submitted by the application deadline of **February 15, 2017** for the next academic year.

II. Who Can Apply

Applicants for the Social Work major may include Social Work Interest majors, students transferring from other majors such as sociology or psychology, or students transferring from other institutions. All applicants must complete the BA Social Work application (described above) which is reviewed by members of the admissions panel. Transfer students who have completed Introduction to Social Work or equivalent course at another institution, are required to submit a completed reference form from that course instructor. No other references will be accepted. Applicants who are not accepted on their first attempt may apply the following year. There is a maximum of two attempts to apply to the BA program.

**Social Work Interest Majors**

Students interested in applying to the School of Social Work may declare 42P (Social Work Interest) through the University's Academic Programs Office at any point during the first 3 years in her or his academic program but usually when sufficient time remains to complete the program within the normal four-year schedule. Students who have earned more than 72 hours are not permitted to declare 42P. The pre-major declaration qualifies students to participate in the Student Association and other activities of the School, but they are not permitted to register for required social work major courses. (Freshman students are advised by The Academic Counseling Center. Social Work Interest students with more than 24 semester hours and until admitted to the major are advised by CLAS Senior Academic Advisor Denise Barnard: denise-barnard@uiowa.edu, 319-335-2487, in W149 Seashore Hall. The BA Program Director and/or Program Administrator confer with these advisors upon request and meet annually with the advising staff to provide updates on social work requirements.) The student will remain a Social Work Interest major until formal admission to the BA Social Work major or until they exceed 72 hours when they must declare another major to register for classes. Students are expected to enroll in SSW:1022 Social Justice and Social Welfare in the United States, or SSW:2222 Intro to Social Work, and apply to the major in their sophomore year. Juniors are permitted to apply and if they do so, it is with the expectation that at least one additional summer semester of coursework will be necessary to complete all of the requirements of the major, due, in part, to the sequencing of social work courses.

**Transfer students**

Transfer students should follow the admissions process delineated above, noting the **February 15, 2017 deadline** for application. If the transfer student has taken the introductory level social work course at another institution, the student shall obtain a completed reference form from a social work instructor at the previous institution. No other references will be accepted. The completed reference should be sent to Admissions Coordinator: Susan Dirks, UI School of Social Work, 308 North Hall, Iowa City IA 52242 prior to the **February 15, 2017 deadline**. The form may be emailed susan-dirks@uiowa.edu or faxed 319-335-1711 by deadline.

Upon admission to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, transfer students' transcripts are evaluated by Undergraduate Admissions and the Registrars' Office and the student is informed of their remaining general educational requirements by the University's Office of Admissions Degree Evaluation form. Transfer students who have taken an equivalent introductory social work course elsewhere may apply to be reviewed for admission during the annual review period. Previously earned credits which may apply to the major are evaluated by the Undergraduate Program Director on a case-by-case basis for applicability to the Social Work major. Generally, courses earned more than 10 years ago will not be accepted. Transfer students are expected to present a transcript and syllabi of courses for which they are requesting social work course requirement equivalency or waiver. The BA Program Director or Program Administrator meets individually with each student to determine if equivalent course content has been covered. A plan is developed, based upon this review and filed for the student and student's advisor's information. In the case of social work courses, only courses earned in a CSWE accredited program are considered equivalent, except for the Intro to Social Work course. If sufficient similar course content has been covered, an individual study may be designed or waiver granted but the hours must be taken in social work.
III. Admission Decisions
The applicant will be notified prior to the early registration period in the spring of his/her acceptance or non-acceptance. Decisions regarding applicants who are currently enrolled in but have not yet completed the introductory social work course, or for applicants who do not meet the minimum GPA, may be delayed until the spring semester's grades have been submitted. Effort is made to assure representation of persons underrepresented in social work practice and from a diversity of social, cultural, and economic groups. Diversity includes, but is not limited to, gender, ethnicity, age, religion, sexual orientation, ability, and socioeconomic class.

IV. Records
All admission materials will be retained until the student graduates; at which time they will be destroyed. All materials submitted by a non-accepted student will be retained for two years.

V. Review Procedures
The admission criteria, policies, and procedures are reviewed annually by the Program Administrator. Major changes in policies or procedures are reviewed by the Admissions Committee and reported to the Faculty of the Whole. Questions regarding the Undergraduate Admissions Policy should be directed to the Program Administrator, Kate Kemp, 319-335-1254, or email: kate-kemp@uiowa.edu.
Please read the BA Admissions Policy and Guidelines for Application before completing this form.

The University of Iowa, School of Social Work requests this information for the purpose of evaluating your application for admission. No persons outside the University are routinely provided this information, except for directory information such as name and local address. Responses to items marked "optional" are optional; all other items are required. If you fail to provide the required information, the School of Social Work may lack sufficient information to adequately evaluate your application for admission.

Return this form and necessary attachments to: Susan Dirks, Admissions Coordinator, UI School of Social Work, 308 North Hall, Iowa City, IA 52242-1223 by February 15, 2017.

Name: ______________________________________________________________ UI-ID #: ____________

Applying for the program location: □ Des Moines        □ Iowa City

Mailing Address: ___________________________________________________________________________________

City: __________________________________________ State: _____ Zip: __________________

Cell Phone: (____) ______________ Work Phone: (____) ______________ Home Phone: (____) ________________

Email addresses: ___________________________________________________________________________________

Birth date (optional):_________________________________ Gender (optional): __________________________

Cultural Identity (optional): We request this information for reporting demographics to the NASW-Council on Social Work Education. We appreciate your input if you are comfortable. Please tell us how you identify, check all that apply:
□ International Student □ Latino/a □ African American □ Asian/Pacific Islander □ American Indian/other Native
□ Caucasian □ GLBTQ □ Male □ Female □ Transgender □ Other

Please note any details about your cultural identity, including any or all cultural characteristics that you are comfortable sharing:
__________________________________________________________________________________________________

Have you ever been convicted of a felony or a crime other than a simple traffic violation or PAULA? □ Yes* □ No

*If you answer yes to this question, please note: Applicants with a criminal history record may not be eligible for social work licensure. For more information, contact the Board of Social Work licensure in the state that you wish to reside and be licensed. (A listing of Boards by state is available online: http://www.aswb.org/)

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

List College(s) or University(ies) in which you are currently enrolled Spring 2017:
__________________________________________________________________________________________________

What is your official major? __________________________ Are you a participant in the 4-Year Graduation Plan? □ yes □ no

Who is your Academic Advisor? __________________________ How many Semester hours are you taking now? _______

Have you applied to the BA in Social Work program in previous years? □ yes □ no If so, when? ________________
If accepted, how many total semester hours will you have earned when you **start the program in fall 2017:** ______

If accepted, you will begin your first year (fall 2017) in the Social Work program as: □ sophomore □ junior □ senior

(30-60 hrs)     (60-90 hrs)        (90+ hrs)

Please list all Colleges or Universities in order that you have attended with dates, list current institution(s) first:

__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________

**Grade Point Average**  
**Spring 2017 Current Cumulative** in semester hours_______ G.P.A. _______  
*for all institutions, including hours through end of fall 2016 semester, using 4.0 scale

**University of Iowa Cumulative** in semester hours_______ G.P.A. _______  

**Transfer from other colleges Cumulative** in semester hours_______ G.P.A. _______

SSW:1022-Social Justice and Social Welfare in the United States grade* _______ Instructor ________________________  
Year taken_________________  
*Transfer students: if you took the introductory Social Work course at another college or university, list equivalent course(s), when and where taken, instructor name(s) and grade(s) received in the course(s). If you are currently enrolled in the course(s), write “spring” instead of the grade. Please confirm equivalent courses with a UI admissions counselor: (319)335-1566. Transfer students are required to provide a reference on the attached form from the instructor of the equivalent course. Transfer students who took or are currently enrolled in the introductory course at UI do not submit the recommendation form. Students currently enrolled in UI’s Intro to Social Work: SSW:2222 who wish to apply must be at midterm standing of this course by Feb. 15th, and recommendation form is NOT required for students in this course.

**WRITING YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT**

Applicants must provide evidence of a combination of personal qualities and values that are considered essential for the professional practice of social work: good intellectual capacity and analytical skills combined with an ability to work constructively with others; good communication skills, judgment, adaptability, sense of responsibility, resourcefulness, caring and compassionate qualities; and a personal commitment to social justice, empowering individuals, and serving under-represented groups. See I-B in Admissions Policy Statement.

Evidence of this combination of personal qualities and professional experience should be demonstrated through your Personal Statement. This Personal Statement is a significant part of the application materials. This document should be approximately 5 pages (double spaced) and must be typed. Note that your Personal Statement itself will be used to evaluate your written communication ability. Your Personal Statement should address the following qualities and competencies:

**PART I:**
- Discuss how paid, volunteer, and life experiences relevant to social work have influenced your decision to pursue or continue a career in social work at the B.A. level.
- Describe any experience relative to working with those different from you in background or other characteristics and any experience relative to problems of economically and socially disadvantaged, marginalized or oppressed people.
- Discuss how these experiences demonstrate that your personal values are congruent with the Social Work Code of Ethics.  
  *Code of Ethics may be found online: [www.socialworkers.org/pubs/Code/code.asp](http://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/Code/code.asp)

**PART II:**
- Discuss your motivation for, expectations regarding, and commitment to the social work program at The University of Iowa. Discuss any factors which have assisted toward the decision to enter or continue in the field of Social Work, and any experiences which you believe will be helpful as a student in Social Work, including: 1) employment, 2) education, 3) special interests, 4) family influences, 5) volunteer service, or other.
- Identify particular assets that you would bring to the School and to the profession, as well as areas in which you would most like to grow academically and professionally.
- Discuss your readiness to undertake study toward a professional degree and anticipated satisfaction or challenges with regard to the choice of the social work profession.
- Identify your short and long term goals as a professional social worker.
SOCIAL SERVICE EXPERIENCE

List your volunteer and professional experience, start with the most recent. You may include another sheet.

Service Organization____________________________________________________phone________________________
Check one: ☐ volunteer  ☐ volunteer for course credit  ☐ paid position
Supervisor_______________________________________________________ dates of service: _________________
Your tasks:____________________________________________________________________________________

Service Organization____________________________________________________phone________________________
Check one: ☐ volunteer  ☐ volunteer for course credit  ☐ paid position
Supervisor_______________________________________________________ dates of service: _________________
Your tasks:____________________________________________________________________________________

Service Organization____________________________________________________phone________________________
Check one: ☐ volunteer  ☐ volunteer for course credit  ☐ paid position
Supervisor_______________________________________________________ dates of service: _________________
Your tasks:____________________________________________________________________________________

Service Organization____________________________________________________phone________________________
Check one: ☐ volunteer  ☐ volunteer for course credit  ☐ paid position
Supervisor_______________________________________________________ dates of service: _________________
Your tasks:____________________________________________________________________________________

List other activities and offices that you have held (designate high school/college/other):
IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE ALL THE DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR THIS APPLICATION TO THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK BY THE DEADLINE 4:30PM FEBRUARY 15, 2017:

☐ Grade report showing all college/university grades through the end of the Fall 2016 semester
  • UI Students do not need an official transcript. Your grades report is in MyUI under student records. This report also includes your current registration. If you print it this way, you only have to include one document. Please include your name and UI ID#.
  • Transfer Students who will be new to UI need to submit both official transcripts to the admissions office and a copy transcript to the School of Social Work.

☐ Transfer Students include a print-out of courses currently registered for Spring 2017 semester, unless it also appears on your grade report.

☐ This completed application form with your signature and date below

☐ Your Personal Statement

Please note that recommendations forms and letters will only be accepted in the case of transfer applications, where the student has completed the introduction to social work class at another institution.

NOTE THAT YOUR APPLICATION WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED BY THE ADMISSIONS PANEL IF THE ABOVE DOCUMENTS ARE NOT RECEIVED BY THE February 15, 2017 DEADLINE.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS WHO COMPLETED THE INTRODUCTORY LEVEL SOCIAL WORK CLASS(ES)* AT ANOTHER SCHOOL. *Please seek the recommendation from the instructor of the highest level SW course you completed.

☐ One completed reference form from the instructor of the introductory level social work class(es), send to Susan Dirks, susan-dirks@uiowa.edu email preferred, or you may mail to: Admissions Coordinator, UI School of Social Work, 308 North Hall, Iowa City IA 52242. Fax is also acceptable: 319-335-1711. No other recommendations will be accepted.

☐ Non-UI Students must also apply and be accepted to the University of Iowa College of Liberal Arts and Sciences: https://admissions.uiowa.edu/apply/transfer-student-application-process

REQUIRED OF SPECIFIED STUDENTS UPON COMPLETION OF SPRING 2017 COURSE WORK *:

☐ If my cumulative GPA is near or below 2.5, or if it is specifically requested in my admission letter, I will send to the School of Social Work a grade report showing grades for current spring semester and current GPA, as soon as spring 2017 semester grades are posted. This report does NOT need to be an official copy unless requested.

*All admissions to the School of Social Work are conditional upon maintaining one’s current level of academic performance verified by receipt of this second grade report.

X

Student Signature  Date

Turn in completed application materials to: Susan Dirks, Admissions Coordinator, UI School of Social Work, 308 North Hall, Iowa City, IA 52242-1223, by Feb. 15, 2017. To check the status of your application email: susan-dirks@uiowa.edu or call 319-335-1255.

The University of Iowa
One form is required and accepted only for transfer students who completed the approved introductory level social work class or equivalent class(es) at a school other than The University of Iowa. The form should be completed by the instructor of that course. Other recommendations will not be accepted or reviewed by the admissions committee. The Deadline is Feb. 15, 2017

**APPLICANT must complete this section in full:**

- **Applicant's Name (Print)**
- **UI ID#, if known, or leave blank:**

- **Email addresses**
- **phone:**

- **print your reference's name:**

You should provide a copy of this form to your instructor, with this section completed, including your signature.

For the convenience of the person completing this form, you should provide a stamped envelope addressed to the School of Social Work, alternatively, this form may be faxed, (address and fax # on the back). Your signature is required on this form.

Under the Family Educational Rights Act of 1974, students are entitled to review their records, including letters of recommendation. It is your option to waive your right to review this recommendation, or you may decline to do so. If you waive your right to review your recommendation forms, these evaluations will be considered confidential by The University of Iowa and will not be available for your inspection or released to any third party. (Note: Applicants not approved for admission have no access to their file). Please mark the appropriate statement below, indicating your choice of options, and sign your name. Your choice has no bearing on admission decisions.

- I waive my right to review this recommendation.
- I do not waive my right to review this recommendation.

**Applicant's Signature (REQUIRED):**

Applying to Center: □ Iowa City □ Des Moines

**REFERENCE WRITER complete this section, pages 1 and 2:**

You have been asked to complete an evaluation of the above named individual who is applying for admission to The University of Iowa School of Social Work in order to earn a BA in Social Work degree. Your candid opinion will help us evaluate her/his application. Your comments will be confidential if the applicant has waived rights of review. All recommendations are destroyed once an applicant has matriculated. (Note: Applicants not approved for admission have no access to their file).

1. In what capacities have you known the applicant? □ Professor/SW class □ Academic Advisor □ Volunteer Supervisor □ Other ___________________________ How long have you known the applicant? _____/yrs. _____/mos.

2. Please rate the applicant's academic and professional behaviors:

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<th>Exceptional (Top 5%)</th>
<th>Superior (Top 10%)</th>
<th>Good (Top 25%)</th>
<th>Average (Top 50%)</th>
<th>Below Average (Bottom 50%)</th>
<th>Not Observed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Capacity for accepting diversity</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Classroom performance: attendance</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Classroom performance: respectful contributions</td>
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<td>Oral communications</td>
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<td>Written communications</td>
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<td>Openness to learning with capacity to change</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Interpersonal skills: ability to work with classmates</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Interpersonal skills: ability to work with faculty</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Volunteer work: attendance</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Evidence of growth/self-awareness in volunteer work</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Completion of volunteer hours</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Behaviors reflecting social work values and ethics</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Maturity/Emotional Stability</td>
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This is a 2-page form. Please complete and sign page 2
3. Does the Introduction to Social Work (or Human Services) course that this student took require a volunteer or service learning component?
   ■ Yes  ■ No

4. If on the previous ranking you rated the applicant particularly high or particularly low on any item, please comment.

5. Success as a social worker requires intelligence, maturity, sound judgment, compassion, self-awareness, adaptability, a sense of responsibility and resourcefulness. Please assess the applicant’s academic and professional promise within this context. We would appreciate any additional comments as well as specific examples of the applicant’s experiences as they reflect a desire and ability to enter the profession of social work. You may attach a separate letter, however, not required; your notes on this form will be considered adequate.

6. Please check one:
   ■ I recommend highly.
   ■ I recommend.
   ■ I recommend with reservations.
   ■ I do not recommend.

Reference Writer Signature ____________________________________________ Date __________________

Name (print or type) ______________________________________________________________________________________

Title ____________________________________________ Organization __________________________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________________________________________________________________

Phone ___________________________________________ email ________________________________________________________________

Please print applicant’s name: ________________________________________________________________________________

Thank you for submitting this reference as soon as possible. Please note the admissions deadline is Feb. 15, 2017. If the reference form does not arrive by the deadline, the applicant file will be incomplete and NOT reviewed for 2017 session.

SEND COMPLETED FORM TO: susan-dirks@uiowa.edu (email preferred)
   319-335-1711
Susan Dirks, Admissions and Programs Coordinator
The University of Iowa School of Social Work
Room 308 North Hall
Iowa City IA 52242

If you have questions about this form, email: susan-dirks@uiowa.edu or call: 319-335-1255.
Tips for Writing the “Personal Statement” of Your BASW Application

1. Address all Components of Parts I and II. The Personal Statement has two parts. Each part can be broken into several areas that you need to discuss. Make sure you fully discuss each part.

2. Balance the Personal with the Professional. For example, it is appropriate to discuss personal challenges that you have experienced. However, these challenges should be used, for example, to demonstrate how they increased your knowledge or skills, or as a basis for understanding your motivation and commitment to the Social Work program and profession.

3. In thinking about your life experiences and attitudes that have shaped your interest in the Social Work profession (Part I), you might consider such questions as:
   - Who has most influenced my choice of the profession? How did they influence my choice?
   - What life events, both positive and negative, have influenced my choice of the profession? What did I learn from these experiences?
   - How have my experiences with persons who are different from me (by color, gender, sexual orientation, age, belief systems, etc.) influenced my choice of the profession?
   - How have my paid or volunteer experiences influenced my choice of the profession? What important lessons about a choice of Social Work as a career did I learn from these experiences?
   - Using the Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers and its Preamble, how are your values consistent with the Code? Avoid simply stating that “my values are consistent with the Code of Ethics”…tell the readers HOW they are reflected in your experiences or world-view and choice of the profession.

4. In thinking about material that you might include in Part II of the Personal Statement, consider such questions as:
   - Why am I applying to the University Of Iowa School Of Social Work instead of many other programs in Social Work? What “fit” do I think I have with the BASW program at Iowa? (Consider looking at the School's website if you don't feel adequate in addressing this question: www.uiowa.edu/~socialwk).
   - What are my strengths and in what areas do I hope to grow as a student in this Program?
   - What issues or experiences have I experienced (or are currently experiencing) that may affect my choice of the profession and/or ability to complete the degree requirements?
   - What are my short term and long term goals as a professional social worker? Do I have special interests in working with a particular problem (such as homelessness, violence, substance abuse, etc) or with a particular population (youth, the elderly, etc.)? How do these interests influence my choice of goals?

5. Because of the page limit of the Personal Statement, (approximately 5 pages double spaced), be selective in the material you present. Obviously you cannot respond to every question posed in #3 and #4; they are questions to ponder as you reflect on what material you will write about to satisfy Part I and Part II of the Personal Statement.

6. No Bad Grammar Please. The Personal Statement will be used to evaluate your written communication skill. Make sure your grammar and spelling are correct. Use topic sentences to begin paragraphs. If you have difficulty with your writing skills, get help from a Writing Lab on-campus. These skills are important not only in writing your Personal Statement: they will be invaluable as you write papers for your Social Work courses and as you write reports in the future as a professional Social Worker.

7. Get feedback. Ask someone to read the criteria for the Personal Statement, read your personal statement, and give you critical feedback about its organization and content. Because members of the Admission Committee cannot read and give you feedback about your Essay in advance of your submitting it, other possible feedback might be obtained from other social workers with whom you might have contact in your volunteer placement etc.

8. Do not wait until the night before it’s due to write this essay! Give yourself time to reflect on the point you want to make. Seek information that you need from books, websites, etc. Write a draft. Sleep on it. Re-write the draft as a polished product. Get feedback. Re-write as necessary to improve the organization or content of the paper.

2016
Goals of the BA Program
The BA program prepares undergraduate students to function as active and informed citizens with a liberal arts perspective. It advances their careers in social work practice by preparing them for:

- Beginning professional social work practice as generalists
- Graduate study in social work or allied professions

The goals of the program are to prepare students for employment in public and private social services in home and community-based settings such as public welfare, child welfare, health, mental health, elderly services, and corrections; to prepare students for informed community participation in social welfare issues; and to provide a base for graduate study in social work or allied professions. The resources of the University, including its faculty, challenge students to excel academically, think analytically, and apply theory to practice, thus enhancing their readiness for continued education at the graduate level.

The BA Program has a strong base in the values and ethics of the social work profession and has a strong liberal arts focus. The research mission of the University exposes students to faculty research and to analytic and scientific ways of thinking. The School's position in the University strengthens its liberal arts focus by drawing not only on the social work curriculum, but also on the interdisciplinary resources of the University and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. BA students must complete the general education requirements which help them to develop the knowledge, attitudes, ways of thinking, and means of communication that are characteristic of a broadly educated person. As they complete these requirements, students gain an understanding of their own cultural heritage in the context of other cultures and an introduction to expressions of culture such as art, literature, science, history, and philosophy. They are exposed to the methods and limitations of various systems of inquiry, and are encouraged to develop critical thinking skills. Students' knowledge of social, psychological, and biological determinants of human behavior and of diverse cultures, social conditions, and social problems are developed through a required course in human biology and through three required courses in the social sciences: psychology, sociology, and political science. The Program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

Admission to the Social Work Major
The School of Social Work endeavors to maintain a heterogeneous student body by enrolling students who represent diverse backgrounds and cultural perspectives. A limited number of students are admitted to the major each year. The application deadline is February 15. Admission to the program requires: 1) Completion of SSW:1022 Social Justice and Social Welfare in the United States with a grade of C or higher in the first or sophomore year; 2) a cumulative GPA of 2.50 (on a 4.0 scale) at the time of admission. Applicants who do not meet the minimum GPA but demonstrate strengths/potential in other areas may be granted consideration for admission on an individual basis. 3) Completion of an application form and a comprehensive statement, received by the deadline February 15th, prior to the fall semester for which the student is applying. The program of required social work courses begins in the junior year, so applicants are encouraged to apply in their sophomore year, even if they have taken the required introductory course in their first year. The experience and growth that occurs in the first two years, along with exposure to the perspectives learned in the introductory class(es) and cognate area classes, strengthen the application.

For transfer students, all of the above is required, except that substitution of SSW:1022 is permitted with a grade of C or above in a course approved by the department, such as Intro to Social Work or Intro to Human Services. Those who have completed the equivalent of Intro to Social Work at another institution must also submit a completed recommendation form and transcripts. Recommendations and letters of reference will otherwise not be accepted. The School of Social Work Criteria for Selective Admission for BA Social Work is detailed in the BA Social Work Admissions Policy Statement and Guidelines for Application.

The Curriculum
The Bachelor of Arts with a major in social work requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including at least 60-64 s.h. of work for the major (a minimum of 35-38 s.h. in social work courses, 13-14 s.h. in cognate areas, 6 s.h. in one other department or in social work courses, and 6 s.h. in social work electives). Students in the major must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses. They also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences General Education Program.

Students must complete SSW:1022 Social Justice and Social Welfare in the United States (3 s.h.) to be admitted to the major and before enrolling in the remaining social work courses required for the major. Social Justice and Social Welfare in the United States (SSW:1022) also fulfills the General Education Program's Values, Society, and Diversity requirement. A transfer student may be given approval by the department to substitute this requirement if they have completed an introduction to social work or introduction to human services course at another institution or the UI Guided Independent Study section SSW:2222:0EXZ Introduction to Social Work, however the transfer course would not fulfill the GE requirement. If transferring the course from another institution, the student may be able to reduce the social work credit required for the major by 3 s.h.

Many students use the major's required course BIOL:1140 Human Biology as partial fulfillment of the General Education Program's Natural Sciences requirement.
The major in social work requires the following:

**SOCIAL WORK COURSES:**

*All of these:*
- SSW:1022 SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SOCIAL WELFARE IN THE UNITED STATES 3 S.H.
- SSW:3840 HUMAN BEHAVIOR IN THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT 4 S.H.
- SSW:3841 FUNDAMENTALS OF SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE 3 S.H.
- SSW:3842 INTERPERSONAL SKILLS LABORATORY 2 S.H.
- SSW:3844 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH 4 S.H.
- SSW:3845 SOCIAL WORK PROCESSES 4 S.H.
- SSW:3847 DISCRIMINATION, OPPRESSION, AND DIVERSITY 3 S.H.
- SSW:4189 FIELD EXPERIENCE SEMINAR 1 S.H.
- SSW:4193 FIELD EXPERIENCE 8-11 S.H.
- SSW:4843 SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND PRACTICE 3 S.H.

**REQUIRED ELECTIVES**

Students must complete a minimum of 6 s.h. of social work electives and 6 s.h. of courses in one other discipline or they can select additional course work in social work. If they opt to complete 6 s.h. from another discipline, students typically select courses in areas closely related to social work, such as anthropology, political science, psychology, sociology, and gender, women's and sexuality studies. Students who are working on a minor or a certificate may apply up to 6 s.h. toward this requirement.

*These:*
- Social work electives 6 s.h.
- Electives in another discipline related to social work 6 s.h.

*Or this:*
- Social work electives 12 s.h.

**COGNATE AREAS**

*Natural and social sciences—all of these:*
- BIOL:1140 Human Biology 4 s.h.
- POLI:1100 Intro to American Politics 3 s.h.
- PSY:1001 Elementary Psychology 3 s.h.
- SOC:1010 Introduction to Sociology 3-4 s.h.

**Recommended Course Sequences**

The school recommends that students apply in their sophomore year and begin the required courses in the Third Year. Required courses are to be taken in the following sequence. Most social work courses are offered only once each year. Social Work electives may be taken in any semester after completion of SSW:1022.

**First and Second Years**

- **General Education courses including:**
  - SSW:1022 Social Justice and Welfare in the U.S. 3 s.h.
  - BIOL:1140 Human Biology 3-4 s.h.
  - POLI:1100 Introduction to American Politics 3 s.h.
  - PSY:1001 Elementary Psychology 3 s.h.
- 6 s.h. in social work electives may be taken prior to admission to the major. 6 s.h. in another discipline (or additional social work electives) may be taken prior to admission to the major.

**When students are accepted and begin the program as JUNIORS, the plan for completion of social work courses is:**

**Third Year – Fall Semester**
- SSW:3840 Human Behavior in the Soc Env. 4 s.h.
- SSW:3847 Discrimination Oppression Diversity. 3 s.h.
- Social Work elective 3 s.h.

**Third Year – Spring Semester**
- SSW:3844 Intro to SW Research. 4 s.h.
- SSW:3845 Social Work Processes. 4 s.h.

**Fourth Year – Fall Semester**
- SSW:3841 Fundamentals of Social Work Pract. 3 s.h.
- SSW:3842 Interpersonal Skills Laboratory. 2 s.h.
- SSW:3843 Social Welfare Policy and Practice. 3 s.h.
- Social Work elective 3 s.h.

**Fourth Year – Spring Semester**
- SSW:3844 Intro to SW Research. 4 s.h.
- SSW:3845 Social Work Processes. 4 s.h.
- Social Work Elective 3-6 s.h.

**Fourth Year – Summer Semester**
- SSW:4189 Field Experience Seminar. 1 s.h.
- SSW:4193 Field Experience. 8-11 s.h.

**When students are accepted and begin the program as SENIORS, the plan for completion of social work courses is:**

**Fourth Year – Summer Semester**
- SSW:3840 Human Behavior in the Soc Env. 4 s.h.
- SSW:3841 Fundamentals of Social Work Pract. 3 s.h.
- SSW:4843 Social Welfare Policy and Practice. 3 s.h.
- SSW:3847 Discrimination Oppression Diversity. 3 s.h.

**Fourth Year – Fall Semester**
- SSW:3842 Interpersonal Skills Laboratory. 2 s.h.
- SSW:3844 Intro to SW Research. 4 s.h.
- SSW:3845 Social Work Processes. 4 s.h.
- Social Work Elective 3-6 s.h.

**Fourth Year – Spring Semester**
- SSW:4189 Field Experience Seminar. 1 s.h.
- SSW:4193 Field Experience. 8-11 s.h.
Four-Year Graduation Plan
The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the University's four-year graduation plan. (Courses in the major are those required to complete the major; they may be offered by departments other than the major department). Admission to the School of Social Work is by application; the four-year graduation plan does not apply to students who are not admitted by their fifth semester. **Before the third semester** begins: at least one-quarter of the semester hours required for graduation. **Before the fifth semester** begins: SSW:1022, four courses that can be applied to the major (may include concentration area), admission to the major, and at least one-half of the semester hours required for graduation. **Before the seventh semester** begins: six more courses in the major and at least three-quarters of the semester hours required for graduation. **Before the eighth semester** begins: four or five more courses in the major and finalized field placement. During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining course work in the major, all remaining General Education courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate.

Honors
The School of Social Work has an honors program leading to a Bachelor of Arts with honors in social work. A cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.33 is required for participation in the program, which enables students to do in-depth study in subjects that interest them.

Minor
A minor in social work requires a minimum of 15 s.h. in social work courses, including 12 s.h. in courses numbered 3000 or above taken at The University of Iowa. Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the minor. Course work for the minor may not be taken pass/non-pass. The minor requires that students take SSW:1022 Social Justice and Welfare in the United States or SSW:2222:0EXZ Introduction to Social Work (or for transfer students, an equivalent course from another institution approved by the department). Required social work courses are not available to students who are not admitted to the social work program, with the exception of two courses: SSW:3840 EXW Human Behavior in the Social Environment and SSW: 4843 EXZ Social Welfare Policy and Practice. Consult the [School of Social Work website](#) for guidelines for minor course selection.

8/9/2016