

**Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work MSW Program**  
**MSW APPLICATION PERSONAL STATEMENT GUIDELINES**  
**(Mānoa campus-based option)**

Please provide us with a personal statement addressing the areas identified below. Preparation of this material will help you to reflect and better define your plans for professional social work education. It will also help us to know something about you and assist us in assessing your potential and readiness for graduate education and the social work profession.

*Advanced Standing applicants: Do **not** use the personal statement guidelines provided below. Please refer to the Supplemental Information for Advanced Standing Applicants - Advanced Standing Criteria and Instructions, and complete only the Personal Statement for Advanced Standing Applicants according to the guidelines provided in that document.*

*The personal statement should not exceed 4 pages in length  
and must be double-spaced and typed.*

**AREAS TO BE ADDRESSED**

Be sure to include your name on each page.

1. What key life experiences have led you to select social work as a profession? In what ways do you feel your experiences have prepared you for this profession?
2. Describe briefly some of the major social issues and problems that you are particularly concerned with in your community and country. Include your perception of the role of social workers in dealing with these issues and problems.
3. Discuss your views of the importance of culture and diversity issues in social work practice. Elaborate on experiences that you have had working with diverse populations. Describe the impact that you believe these experiences will have on your practice as a professional social worker.
4. What are your objectives for graduate level study in Social Work? What, if any, are your long-range professional goals? What field of practice interests you (e.g. child and family, health, mental health, substance abuse, the justice system, gerontology). Why is the School of Social Work at the University of Hawai'i of particular interest to you?
5. If you have worked or volunteered in a human service agency, describe one case or experience that you feel illustrates the type of work you did. If you have not had any work experience in the area of human services, describe your interest and participation in activities in the community or in college that illustrate how you have been personally involved with people.