



### Essay Questions:

Please upload your **two** essay responses as two separate files in the Materials section, at the end of your application in Slate. Do **NOT** upload both essay answers as one document. Both documents **must follow APA formatting guidelines, including proper citation of sources**, and be 3-4 pages, not counting title and reference page. For APA writing guidelines [visit this helpful website](#). **Applicants that do not address each essay prompt in their responses will not be considered for admission and/or may be asked to submit a rewrite.**

- **Essay Question One:** Submit an essay that addresses how your personal qualities, life experience, and professional and volunteer work have led you to the field of social work and prepared you to honor the UM MSW Mission Statement (see below).
- How will these qualities and experiences shape what you bring to the MSW learning community and to the pursuit of social justice in the field of social work?
- How do these qualities and experiences make you a strong candidate for the specific MSW program offered at the University of Montana?

**University of Montana School of Social Work Mission Statement:** The Master of Social Work program prepares social workers who, guided by a person-in-environment perspective, will promote and support the profession's historic commitment to social and economic justice and equality through direct practice activities and community-based efforts reflecting the needs and dignity of all people. The program educates students to become competent, ethical, and collaborative practitioners, community leaders, and researchers who appreciate diversity, use critical thinking skills, and understand rural and global contexts. Graduates will embrace advances in knowledge and practice promoting the rights and well-being of people and creating a more humane society.

- **Essay Question Two:** Submit an essay that analyzes a contemporary social issue that you consider relevant to the field of social work. In this essay, demonstrate your skills in professional writing and critical analysis. The essay should include the following:
  - Overview of the issue and its relevance to social work.
  - Brief historical background and context of the issue.
  - Rationale that addresses why this issue matters to social workers in pursuit of social justice.
  - Brief overview of relevant research (3-4 sources) that provides evidence regarding the nature of the issue and strategies for addressing it.
  - Brief description of ways in which social workers and others are working to address the issue.
  - Innovative possibilities for action and change that you would put forth based on your understanding of and experience relating to the issue.
  - Proper citation sources and reference page.