

University of Alabama School of Social Work

DSW Program

The Statement of Purpose

Please note that this was the instructions for the Statement of Purpose for the 2019 application year. The DSW program committee will be revising these instructions and the updated instructions will be posted in mid-October for the 2020 application year. You may use this version of the instructions as a general guide, but it is advised to review the instructions release in October and use that as a reference for writing your statement of purpose.

The Statement of Purpose should provide a detailed and edited essay that addresses the following points:

- A summary of your social work experience and area of social work interest or specialization.
- A summary of why you are interested in pursuing the DSW degree, including a description of how you believe that the degree will make an impact on your career, as well as the impact that the degree may make on your area of practice. You should also indicate whether they are interested in the *clinical track* or the *organizational leadership track* and why that track is best fitting for their career needs.
- Describe a specific challenge or issue in micro/mezzo/macro practice that you would like to address as part of the DSW program curriculum focused on practice change. This should be an issue related to social work ethics, social justice, and/or quality of service delivery.

The statement should be no more than five pages long, double spaced, 12pt font.

As you write your Statement of Purpose, be mindful of some of the characteristics that the review committee will focus on as they review your essay:

- The extent to which the description of your work experience reflects a high level of competency at the MSW social work level, as well as an in-depth understanding and appreciation of social work values and ethics.
- The appropriateness of your current social work practice setting (paid employment or volunteer setting) for applying DSW coursework and other required assignments.
- Your ability to identify and articulate a social justice, ethical, or social service problem that can be addressed through the DSW coursework and capstone project.
- You may cite literature supporting your statement, using APA format.

- The overall quality of writing and/or other indicators not mentioned above.