

University of Alabama School of Social Work

DSW Program | The Statement of Purpose Instructions

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 *advanced 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 clinical, organizational, and/or community-based social work practice that you would like to address as part of the DSW program curriculum. This issue should reflect critical thought about social work practice and reflect an interest 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:

- 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. The description of this issue should be clear and compelling.
- 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.
- You must cite literature supporting your statement, using APA format.
- The overall quality of writing and/or other indicators not mentioned above.