**GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING GRADUATE ADMISSION STATEMENT**

**This statement MUST accompany your application materials submitted to The School of Social Work.**

As part of your application for admission to The School of Social Work, you are to write a statement that addresses the five areas listed below. This statement will be used both to assess your writing and critical thinking skills and to aid the Graduate Admissions Office in making a decision about your application. Please adhere to the following guidelines.

* The statement should not exceed five typewritten pages.
* The statement should be double spaced and use a readable font (Arial, Times New Roman) and size (no smaller than 12 point).
* Please include a coversheet with your name and identification of the program to which you are applying (Full time program, part time program, full time Advanced Standing or part time Advanced Standing)
* Please address the following questions in your statement. **Some of the questions contain multiple parts so be sure to read and answer the questions fully.**
1. What motivates you to pursue a master’s degree in social work at this time?
2. The profession of social work is committed to social, political, and economic justice, the alleviation of poverty and oppression, and the reduction of social problems. Address a social problem about which you are you particularly concerned. Concisely discuss your understanding of social, political, and economic justice. How do you think that you can advance the aforementioned? What experiences or factors have shaped your interest in advancing justice?
3. Describe some of your experiences and achievements in school, work (volunteering or employment), and in your personal life. Include a description of any barriers you have encountered in pursuing your education, work, or personal goals. Indicate the steps and strategies you have used, or are using, to overcome these barriers.
4. Describe examples and experiences that demonstrate you can work effectively with individuals and communities that represent diverse populations (for example but not limited to, people and communities reflecting diverse ethnicities, racial identities, abilities, socio-economic class, gender, or sexual orientations.) Describe any difficulties you have encountered or that you think that you might encounter when working with any of the diverse groups mentioned above.
5. Please describe your plans for completing the MSW program if you are admitted. For example, how do you plan to balance your work, education, and personal life? What supports are in place for you when you enter field placement?