

SCHOOL OF HUMAN SERVICE PROFESSIONS
Center for Social Work Education

PhD in Social Work Application Guidelines

PERSONAL STATEMENT GUIDELINES

The personal statement is a vital component of your application. It will be used to evaluate your writing skills as well as your ability to conceptualize and articulate your interests in pursuing doctoral-level education.

Please use the following outline to compose your essay, which should be the equivalent of between four and six double-spaced pages.

Personal Background – Describe significant life experiences (professional and/or personal) that have led you to your decision to pursue doctoral education in social work.

Career Objectives – Describe your career aspirations. Explain what you hope to do with your Social Work PhD degree.

Research Interests – Describe your research interests. These may be general interests or questions, developed from your practice or lived experience.

Personal Evaluation – Discuss your readiness for rigorous graduate work, your ability to manage the heavy demands of graduate school with your other personal and professional responsibilities, your strengths and weakness, and why you think Widener University's Social Work PhD Program is a good fit for you.

SCHOLARLY WRITING SAMPLE GUIDELINES

In addition to your personal statement, please submit a sample of your scholarly (academic) writing. Writing samples should be a minimum of three double-spaced pages in length. Possible sources for your sample include a published research article, a book chapter, a professional report, or a graduate-level course paper.