MSW APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Personal Statement Requirements
The personal statement should be a 3-4 page, double-spaced, typewritten document that addresses the following points:

1. Describe how your interest in social work developed, and the philosophy upon which this interest is based. Include the influence of personal, professional and/or volunteer experiences on your interest in a social work career.

2. When you apply to the UConn School of Social Work, you must select your concentration. Discuss the factors influencing the concentration you have selected. How does this relate to your career goals? Complete descriptions of the concentrations can be found at: https://ssw.uconn.edu/explore-our-msw-program/.

3. Having read our mission statement (http://www.ssw.uconn.edu/our-community/mission-statement), please describe how your career goals align with our objectives and mission.

4. If you have prepared for, or been employed in another field of work, discuss why you want to change to social work.

5. If you are now employed in a social service agency, describe in detail how a professional social work education would improve your practice.

6. What do you consider to be your personal strengths and limitations in relation to your development as a professional social worker?

7. If you are transferring from another school of social work, discuss your reasons fully.

8. The NASW Code of Ethics (https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-English) expresses the value of respect for individuals regardless of age, culture, class, ethnicity, disability, gender, national origin, race, religion, or sexual orientation. Discuss how your personal values are or are not compatible with this professional standard. How will you reconcile any conflicts between your personal values and the requirements of the profession?

Advanced Standing Essay (Advanced Standing applicants only) – Requirements coming soon, please check back
In addition to the Personal Statement, answer Question #9 as a separate essay. Please note: There will be a separate place to upload this document as the “Advanced Standing Essay” in the electronic application.

Three Professional Recommendations
The application provides the ability for recommendations to be completed electronically. Applicants must provide the name and contact information for 3 recommenders. The application system will then send an email to each recommender providing instruction and access to a website where will be able to submit their recommendation electronically. It is preferred that the recommendation be written on letterhead and uploaded. Applicants will be able to monitor the status of the online recommendation process.

As an applicant you will have the opportunity to indicate whether you waive your right to inspect the recommendations. Please note: if you waive this right, the contents of the recommendation will not be released to you or anyone other than the faculty reviewing applications.
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Recommendations should be from three people who have recent knowledge of your qualifications.

Recommendations should be professional or academic in nature. For those with work experience in social services, a recommendation from the most recent employer or supervisor must be provided.

Advanced Standing Applicants: One of your recommendations must be completed by the advisor who has known you the longest, a minimum of one full semester, and can speak to both academic and field experience.

In the letter of recommendation the advisor should address the following:

a. How long they have known the applicant
b. Describe the applicant’s academic ability
c. Describe the applicant’s roles and responsibilities at their field placement/s and describe the field placement setting/s
d. Evaluate the applicant’s performance in their field placement/s
e. Describe how ready the applicant is prepared to move into 2nd year of an MSW program
f. Please include your recommendation for admission using one of the following choices in your letter:
   i. I strongly recommend this advanced standing applicant for admission and feel the applicant has the capability to perform at a superior level.
   ii. I recommend this advanced standing applicant for admission and feel the applicant’s performance should be comparable to that of most graduate students.
   iii. I do not recommend this applicant for advanced standing admission.

It is essential that all information above be included in the letter since we no longer require an additional form. In addition to the recommendation from the applicant’s advisor, two additional letters of recommendation are still required.