



We are thrilled that you are considering joining our program and taking the next step toward a rewarding and impactful career in social work. As you prepare your materials, we encourage you to reflect on the qualities and commitment that make social work a unique and meaningful profession.

Application Requirements

1. NUID Number and Student Information

2. Personal Statement

Your personal statement is a critical component of your application and serves as an opportunity to demonstrate your understanding of and fit for the social work profession. The Admissions Committee pays close attention to both the content of your responses and your writing skills.

Content Requirements: Please address the following prompts in no more than 5 pages, double-spaced in 12-point font.

- Why have you chosen social work: Your response should demonstrate a basic understanding of the social work profession, including what distinguishes it from other helping professions.
- Social justice and cultural humility: The social work profession is rooted in social justice. Social workers adopt a stance of cultural humility and strive toward cultural awareness. Discuss a time when one of your personal or cultural identities influenced your reaction to a social situation. Reflecting on that experience, how might it influence your future social work practice?
- Self-reflection and growth orientation: Social workers are self-reflective, strengths-based, and growth-oriented. Identify a strength that you possess and an area for growth. Discuss how you became aware of these, how they show up in your current professional practice, and how they may influence your future professional practice.
- Core values and ethical principles: Social work is a values-based profession dedicated to mitigating inequality and enhancing human wellbeing, especially for vulnerable, marginalized, and oppressed populations. From the core values and ethical principles identified in the NASW Code of Ethics:
 - Identify and discuss one that resonates with you.
 - Identify and discuss one that may challenge you.



3. Resume

Your resume helps the admissions committee get to know you better. The admission committee understands that many students may not have human service experience yet. Please include the following details:

- Employment, educational experiences, activities (at UNO or outside of UNO), and volunteer experiences.
- List start and end dates with month and year.
- Include honors or distinctions received.

4. Professional References

Three professional references are required as part of your application. These references should come from individuals who are directly familiar with your skills, experiences, and potential for success in the field of social work.

- References should be from work or academic sources (e.g., supervisors, professors, or colleagues).
- Current email address is required for each reference.
- Be sure to communicate with your references in advance to confirm their willingness to provide a reference
- References from family members, friends, personal therapists, or other non-work/academic sources will not be considered.

5. Optional Documentation

The following additional documents are optional and may not apply to all students.

- Misdemeanor/felony charges: If applicable, list misdemeanor or felony charges, the year you were charged, and the outcome of the charges. You may also include a brief explanation of how these experiences have influenced your pursuit of a social work career. (Note: Misdemeanor or felony charges do not automatically disqualify you from admission but may affect practicum placement and future licensing.)
- Reapplication statement: If you have previously applied for admission to the BSSW program, list the year and outcome of your prior application. You may include any relevant experiences or developments since your original application.
- Autobiographical statement: If you have a compelling autobiographical story that is relevant to your application but not addressed elsewhere, you may attach a letter to the Admissions Committee.