

# MSW Application Criteria & Steps

## Standard Program

### *Application Information*

1. When the application opens, choose the correct MSW program application from the list. Example:
  - Select: Social Work Cheney – MSW: for the full-time fully in-person graduate program based in the Cheney and Spokane area.
  - Select Social Work Everett – MSW: for the part-time hybrid graduate program based in Everett, Washington. Designed for students from the Pacific Northwest counties and Island counties.
2. The application system will save an applicant's material, allowing the applicant to return to the application to complete the materials over time but before the deadline.
3. NOTE until the glitch in the system is repaired: Under the "Graduate Documents Upload", numerous documents can be uploaded, although it may not appear so. If "Add Another" does not appear, you will need to upload the first document, do not click "Continue", click "References" in the left Menu, then return to "Graduate Documents Upload" where you will be able to upload more documents under "Add Another".
4. Incomplete applications at the deadline will not be reviewed unless extenuating circumstances exist.
5. Only one application per applicant is reviewed at a time.

### *Application Document Requirements and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)*

- 1) **GPA Requirement:** A cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher from an undergraduate degree earned at an accredited institution of higher learning.
  - a) FAQ: *What if I don't have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher?*
    - When the applicant has a cumulative GPA less than a 3.0, the applicant must upload a statement of explanation of the GPA and their readiness for graduate-level work at this time.
  - b) FAQ: *Is the GRE required?*
    - No. The GRE is not necessary.
- 2) **Official Transcripts:** Follow the directions on requesting an official transcript from the undergraduate degree-earning institution.
- 3) **Professional References:** Identify three professional references, submit their names and email contact in the application. The online system will generate an email to those references asking them to upload their letter or recommendation on your behalf.

a) *FAQ: Who should I include as a reference?*

- We recommend you include one academic, one reference from someone involved in your field experience, and one professional reference. If you have been out of school for more than 5 years, it may be more difficult to obtain an academic reference. Choose references who can accurately and directly speak about the quality of your past paid or volunteer work and/or potential in a graduate social work program.
- We **do not** accept references from personal friends, family, a counselor/client, or faith leaders/parishioners.

4) **Resume:** Upload a current resume.

a) *FAQ: What if I have gaps in my resume?*

- We are less concerned with gaps only that your resume corresponds with what you share in your essay questions.

b) *FAQ: Can life or prior work experience substitute for graduate credits in this MSW Program?*

- No, previous life or work experience cannot be substituted for course credit. This is not allowed by our accrediting body, the Council on Social Work Education.

5) **Social Work Essay Questions:** All essays can be included in one document with your name and date in the header. Each essay should be numbered and have a heading. The headings are already provided for you (the bolded words before the questions in the table below).

Standard MSW Program Essay Questions
1. <b>Why the MSW</b> (250 words max): Why are you pursuing an MSW, and how have your work, volunteer, and/or educational experiences contributed to your decision?
2. <b>Core Values</b> (250 words max): How do your core values fit with the NASW Code of Ethics and the EWU School of Social Work mission?
3. <b>Diversity</b> (250 words max): Briefly describe one experience you had interacting with someone different from yourself, which impacted your perspective on diversity. Please include your reactions and reflections on lessons learned. These differences may include but are not limited to factors such as age, class, culture, ability, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, immigration status, marital status, political ideology, race, religion/spirituality, and tribal sovereign status.
4. <b>Social Issue</b> (250 words max): Briefly discuss a social issue important to you. What are some underlying causes and the impacts on individuals, families, and/or communities? How might you participate in bringing about change?

## Frequently Asked Questions for Essay Questions

a) FAQ: *Do I have to cite my sources in the essays?*

- No. You are not expected to cite sources for the essays. It is fine to reference the source, but full citation is not expected.

b) FAQ: *What makes a good essay?*

- Strong essays are developed carefully and thoughtfully. Essays should address each question. Strong answers include examples and evidence. To demonstrate an ability to apply concepts, strong essays include examples from work, volunteer, education, and other pertinent details.
- Essays should be written clearly, concisely, and ideas should be expressed explicitly. Be sure to allot plenty of time to complete essay questions. Essays written hastily reflect a lack of preparedness.

c) FAQ: *How long should my essays be?*

- Use the word count allocated for each question. Strong essays provide enough detail to fully answer the question without being wordy. Strong essays answer the questions concisely and clearly.

d) FAQ: *How important are my essays?*

- The essays are extremely important. Essay responses are a key component of the application and provide information faculty consider when reviewing your application materials.
- It is very important to use complete sentences, proper grammar, punctuation, spelling, and other mechanics of written English. Strong essays often undergo revision and proofreading.