

ROBERTS WESLEYAN COLLEGE

Autobiographical Statement Guidelines

Instructions

The Master of Social Work program at Roberts Wesleyan College is preparing advanced practitioners in the profession and recognizes its obligation to clients, colleagues, society, and the profession to select appropriate candidates for graduate study. To help in this process, the Admissions Committee requires an autobiographical statement for use in evaluating both your potential and readiness for graduate study in social work and your writing skills. The statement (to be written by you) should contain between 1000-1500 words and be typewritten and double spaced. The autobiographical statement should be organized in six sections as follows:

1. Career Plans and Objectives

- Discuss how you became interested in the social work profession.
- How have friends, family members, etc., influenced your decision to pursue a career in social work?
- What are your goals for graduate study and your career?
- What are your specific career objectives?

2. Life and Relationships

- Address your relational systems, with special emphasis on immediate and extended family.
- How have friends, family members, etc., influenced your decision to pursue a career in social work?
- What experiences have you had in a helping role?
- How do you evaluate your capacity to relate to clients, supervisors, and colleagues?
- How do you handle working with people whose opinions and lifestyles differ from your own? (You may use specific experiences to illustrate your answers where you wish.)

3. Social Commitment and Values

- What social problems do you perceive as the most important in society today?
- How have you been involved in efforts to promote social and economic justice?
- What experiences have you had with culturally diverse communities?
- What do you consider to be the role of religious institutions in promoting social and economic justice?
- How does society's Judeo-Christian heritage impact you personally?

4. Personal Strengths and Weaknesses

Assess your personal and professional strengths. In what areas do you see a need for growth and change? Reflecting on the program's mission and Christian context, discuss how graduate study at Roberts Wesleyan College would assist you in this process.

5. Academic Experience

Address your undergraduate and graduate academic experiences to date, commenting on previous college grades as an index of your abilities. How do you feel you will handle this program's graduate level work?

6. Academic Readiness

Address your ability and readiness to manage the rigor of graduate studies in social work. These rigors demand time for courses, assignments, and field education. Field education requires you to be available 12 – 14 daytime hours per week during your foundation year and 16 – 18 daytime hours per week during your concentration year. Discuss your ability to coordinate these program requirements with your current life obligations.

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