

# ROBERTS WESLEYAN COLLEGE

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## Advanced Standing Essay

Students in the Advanced Standing program need strong writing skills to move into the depth and rigors of the M.S.W. program's concentration year. Please complete the following as an opportunity to share with the Admissions Committee your ability to communicate, in writing, from the conceptual framework on which Roberts Wesleyan's Social Work program is based.

Listed below are the components of the M.S.W. conceptual framework. Please *select two for discussion in an essay that is no longer than five pages*, excluding reference page. Use the questions/comments listed with each concept as a springboard for your written input. This essay needs to be written in APA style. Include citations from sources you may have used in your undergraduate social work courses or accessed from the library. The essay will be evaluated on the basis of organization, clarity of thought, grammar, use of social work language and literature, and critical thinking skills.

- 1. VALUES AND ETHICS** - The preparation for professional practice in social work demands an awareness of personal values, as well as social work values, and an ability to understand the ethical implications which emerge from these values. Where do social workers confront ethical dilemmas? How is awareness of your own and clients' values important in social work practice?
- 2. DIVERSITY** - Diversity includes race, age, ethnicity, gender, physical differences, mental differences, sexual orientation, and religious/spiritual differences. How does the concept of diversity affect social work practice in your view? Are you aware of aspects of diversity that challenge you? What are they?
- 3. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE** - In keeping with the social work profession's commitment to enhance the well-being of people through social change at the macro level, think about your perceptions of social and /or economic injustice. For what changes would you advocate as a social work practitioner?
- 4. AT-RISK POPULATIONS** - The social work profession has a long and rich tradition of responding to the needs of vulnerable populations. With what vulnerable groups have you interacted? How would the interaction you describe address oppression and discrimination as it affects a particular group?
- 5. HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT**- The Roberts M.S.W. program supports a spiritually enriched ecological system's understanding of life as the unifying framework. How is human behavior related to the environment? Where do you see healthy and unhealthy systems, and what indications are there that these systems are working or not?
- 6. SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND SERVICES** - Critical to practicing social work is the need to understand and improve social services and social policies. Discuss an area of policy and service with which you are familiar.

### Required Field Evaluation

Students applying to the Advanced Standing program are required to submit a copy of their B.S.W. Field Evaluation Form. For applicants who are currently in their field placement, a written evaluation from their field instructor or field liaison is to be submitted. (A copy of the final Field Evaluation Form is required once the field placement is completed.)

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