



Expectations for MSW Application Essay

Instructions

The Master of Social Work program at Roberts Wesleyan University 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 essay to evaluate your potential and readiness for graduate study in social work and your writing skills. The essay (to be written by you) should contain between 1000-1500 words and be typewritten and double spaced. The essay should be organized in six sections as follows (please address all sections in your essay by using corresponding section headings):

1. Career Plans and Objectives

- Discuss how you became interested in the social work profession.
- 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?

3. Diversity, Oppression, and a Commitment to Justice

- What experiences have you had with culturally or ethnically diverse communities?
- How do you handle working with people whose opinions and lifestyles differ from your own?
- What social problems do you perceive as the most important in society today?
- What do you see as the most significant impact of systemic racism in the United States?
- How have you been involved in efforts to promote social, economic, racial, and/or environmental justice?

- What do you consider to be the role of religious institutions in promoting social, economic, racial, and environmental justice?

5. Personal Strengths and Areas for Growth

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

6. 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?

7. Academic Readiness

The rigorous demands of graduate education include (1) time spent in class, (2) an approximate three hours/week per semester hour of preparation and completion of assignments outside of class time, and (3) field education that requires 12-14 hours/week during foundation year and 16-18 hours/week during concentration year, all of which are typically completed during daytime hours (Note: another option for field education is to complete a block placement over the summer, which is 35-40 hours/week).

- Address your ability and readiness to manage the rigor of graduate education in terms of work/life/school balance. Reflect on your current life obligations in terms of employment (i.e., are you working full-time or part-time?), any caretaking responsibilities that you may have (i.e., are you the primary caretaker for others?), and volunteer roles that you fill (i.e., EMT, coach, Sunday school teacher).

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Scan and email to: AGE-Admissions@roberts.edu with subject line "Essay – AGE Admissions Office"

Fax to: 585.594.6611 with subject line "Essay – AGE Admissions Office" For questions call:

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