Personal Statement

The CSULA School of Social Work application must include a personal statement of approximately six to eight (6-8) double-spaced pages, (one-inch margin all around, 12-point font) in essay format discussing each of the points listed below. The personal statement is an opportunity for applicants to share personal and professional experiences that have prepared them for graduate school in social work. The personal statement will also be used to evaluate applicants’ critical thinking, self-reflective capacities, and advanced writing skills.

Answer the questions **in order**. Please do not copy/paste the questions but instead provide the headings (e.g., Professional Information). Failure to address any question or adhere to the instructions stated above will affect the evaluation.

**Professional Information**

1. Describe how your work history and related volunteer experiences have prepared you to pursue a master’s degree in social work.

2. Describe how your strengths and limitations may influence your development as a professional social worker.

3. What are your short-term and long-term goals for a career as professional social worker?

4. Our school has a strong cross-cultural emphasis and values diversity. What attributes and values do you possess that can enrich our school’s cross-cultural orientation? How do you think your worldview regarding diversity will influence your work in school and as a social worker?

5. Please describe any professional cross-cultural experiences you have had, especially with regard to value conflicts and how those conflicts were resolved.

**Educational Plan**

Our program is rigorous and demands a great deal of time and attention. In the two-year program, students spend an estimated 52 total hours per week for their studies (which includes 12 hours of classes, 16 hours of field internship, and 24 hours of reading, studying, and preparing class assignments). In the three-year program, students spend an estimated 24 total hours per week in the first year, and 37 total hours per week in the second and third years. (Please note these are estimates and a student’s hours may be higher or lower).
6. What is your plan for managing your responsibilities with such a rigorous graduate program? For example, there is no flexibility when it comes to class and internship schedules, as it is a cohorted program; therefore, if you will be working while in the program, please explain how you will reconcile this with such a rigorous program. Please consider financial and time management issues.

Vignettes/ Case Illustrations

7. Discuss a situation in which you were confronted with a difficult value or ethical conflict. How did you resolve it? What were some of the factors you considered in making your decision? How was the person and/or other individual affected by the situation?

Please draw upon your own work/volunteer experience to illustrate how you managed the situation described. If you have not had such an experience in a professional setting, please draw upon a personal experience and discuss how you would manage the situation if it occurred in a professional setting per the questions above.

Do not use names or information that might violate the confidentiality of the individuals you decide to use in your descriptions.

Additional Information

Describe any additional information, not reflected in the enclosed forms that might enhance your application. For example, you may include achievements, publications, awards, and professional presentations, or other relevant information.