



**(Academic History Continued)**

COURSE(S) IN PROGRESS		INSTITUTION	COURSE(S) PLANNED		INSTITUTION
TERM/YEAR	COURSE		TERM/YEAR	COURSE	

List any special academic distinctions received (honors graduation, membership in honorary organizations, etc.) \*

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List any leadership positions held. \*

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\* Attach a separate sheet if necessary

**4. Focus Area**

We request this information to assist us in planning. Your choices here do not commit you to follow a particular program if admitted.

- Children, Adolescents and Families
- Adults and Families
- Elders and Families

**5. Financial Aid**

I plan to finance my graduate education (i.e., tuition, fees, books, living expenses) through:

- Personal resources
- Federally insured student loan funds
- An agency grant (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- Part-time employment
- Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Personal Statement**

Complete a personal statement (not to exceed 4 pages typed and double-spaced). Use the outline provided below. Remember, the School of Social Work is evaluating your unique qualities, capacities, preparation, and suitability for professional work in the field. Answer each question fully. Failure to address the points below will affect the rating of your overall application. This information will become part of your file.

1. Discuss your interest and career objectives in Social Work.
2. Discuss the current social problems that are of greatest concern to you and what ideas you have in which they might be addressed or prevented
3. Describe any special knowledge or experience you may have gained about socially and/or economically disadvantaged communities or other special populations. Examples include: ethnic minorities, gays and lesbians, members of rural communities, the elderly, persons with special needs, children and youth, the homeless, etc. Discuss the method by which this knowledge and/or experience was gained: (1) paid employment or volunteer work; (2) special training or coursework; or (3) by having lived in one of these communities.

4. Describe the extent of your involvement in volunteer activities and/or paid work experience that would demonstrate your capacity to assume leadership roles, i.e., program administration, training and supervision of others, and community organizing.
5. Include any additional information that you feel might be helpful to the School of Social Work in accessing your qualifications for professional Social Work education.

#### 7. Letters of Reference

Submit three (3) completed reference forms with your School of Social Work application. In selecting appropriate persons to write letters of reference on your behalf, please note that the purpose of the letters is to obtain an objective evaluation form from persons who have had an opportunity to evaluate your academic work (i.e., college professors) and/or your work in human services (i.e., a recent supervisor or employer). It is to your advantage to use the enclosed letter of reference forms, so that we can consider the responses of the evaluator.

Please send no more than three letters of reference. For Advanced Standing applicants, one letter of reference must be from your B.S.W. Field Director.

For students transferring from other MSW programs, one reference letter from the Program Director and one from the Field Education Director is required.

#### 8. Advanced Standing Program

If not accepted into the Advanced Standing Program, do you want to be considered for the two-year program?

Yes  No

#### 9. Field Education Requirements

The internship for Foundation students involves 16 hours per week at an agency. The internship for Advanced Standing/ Concentration students consists of approximately 20 hours per week at an agency with part-time students having the option of beginning their internship at the beginning of Summer 3 (18 hours/week) and completing 16 hours per week in the fall and spring semesters.

Due to the limited number of agencies that can provide quality evening and weekend hours for internships, the School of Social Work cannot guarantee that an appropriate internship can be found unless students can devote a minimum of 8 hours of weekday-daytime hours (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) to their internships. Limited daytime hours may jeopardize placement in a field internship and the student may be unable to obtain a social work degree.

#### 10. Criminal History Disclaimer

An increasing number of employers, including social service agencies are now requiring that their potential employees, student interns, and volunteers complete criminal background screening checks. It is critical that students applying to Florida Atlantic University School of Social Work be informed and take responsibility for the following:

(INITIAL EACH ITEM BELOW)

\_\_\_\_ I understand that if there are currently any pending criminal charges against me in any jurisdiction this may make me ineligible for admission to the Florida Atlantic University School of Social Work and/or an agency placement for Field Education. Further should I fail to disclose such pending legal action, I understand that the School of Social Work may be obligated to take immediate action to terminate me from my program of study.

\_\_\_\_ I understand that a history of criminal conviction may negatively impact the ability of the School of Social Work Field Education to place me with an agency for the purpose of completing my field education requirements.

\_\_\_\_ I understand that if I had criminal charges previously and pled nolo contendere or adjudication was withheld, I still need to disclose all information about those charges.

\_\_\_\_ I understand that it is my responsibility to disclose information regarding all adult convictions and/or criminal penalties to any agency where I may be placed for field education purposes.

\_\_\_\_ I am aware that if I fail to be forthcoming with this information, it can result in dismissal from the agency and disciplinary action by Florida Atlantic University School of Social Work.

\_\_\_\_ I am aware that within the state of Florida a felony history may make me ineligible to become a licensed social worker. (Note: The state reserves the right to deny any individual a license. For further information, please contact the State of Florida Licensing Board: FL Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage of Family, Therapy & Mental Health Counseling, 4052 Bald Cypress Way, BIN #c08, Tallahassee, FL 32399, 850-488-0595)

*To the best of my knowledge, this application is complete and accurate. I realize this information is not confidential. I understand the information in this application will be processed by the Graduate College and will be shared with the School of Social Work faculty. I also understand if I am accepted into this program (full- or part-time) that coursework must be taken in a planned and sequenced format. Any exceptions to this policy must be in writing to the MSW Coordinator.*

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Signature of Applicant

Date

## PETITION FOR EXCEPTIONAL CONSIDERATION

*To be completed ONLY by applicants whose GPA is below 3.0*

An applicant who believes that his or her individual circumstances warrant exceptional consideration for a waiver of the minimum admission requirements of an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 must petition the Admissions Committee.

The waiver should be submitted by the applicant in the form of a statement entitled "Petition for Exceptional Consideration," and be attached to this application, signed and dated at the bottom. The petition should include a statement indicating how the minimum admission requirement of 3.0 GPA does not provide the applicant a fair and adequate opportunity to present himself or herself in a favorable light. The applicant should briefly discuss how he or she has indeed demonstrated a capacity for successful achievement in a rigorous MSW program. For example, an applicant might provide evidence of superior grades during the final semester(s) of work before graduation, indicating a trend toward improved performance. Or, subsequent to receipt of the undergraduate degree, an applicant might demonstrate competence through achievement in another graduate program, or have outstanding experience in human service work experience (volunteer or paid).

The applicant should also discuss how, if granted admission to the MSW program, he or she plans to address potential obstacles to successfully complete the program. For example, if a low grade point average was viewed as the result of a "need to work full time during my undergraduate studies" the applicant should discuss why that is not likely to be a factor during his or her MSW study.

Finally, the applicant should attest to the accuracy of all information provided in the petition and date and sign the document. The petition must be submitted with the application.

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Name (please print)

Signature

Date