



MacMurray COLLEGE



Bachelor of Social Work Degree Application

A student makes an initial application to the Social Work Major during *Introduction to Social Work*.

Components in this application process include:

- Part I. Identifying Information
- Part II. Written Essay (see page 2 for instructions)
- Part III. Social Work Student Handbook Acknowledgement Form

I. Identifying Information:

Name _____ Cell phone # _____

Mailing address _____
street city state zip

Campus box # _____ Email address _____

Emergency contact name _____ phone # _____

Home address _____ Home phone # _____
street city state zip

How many hours per week to you currently work in a job? _____

Are you currently a parent with children? Yes/No _____ If so, how many children do you have? _____

Classification:

- ___ Social Work Major as entering Freshman
- ___ Transferring from another program at MacMurray
- ___ Transfer student from another university or college Specify degree & institution _____
- ___ Non-traditional student without a degree

Are you on: Facebook? _____ Twitter? _____

Have you accessed the SCWK docs on Moodle? Yes/No _____ <http://moodle.mac.edu/login/index.php>

Have you accessed the SCWK Major page? Yes/No _____ http://www.mac.edu/academics/programs/social_work.asp

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? _____ Yes _____ No

(reporting a conviction does not necessarily disqualify one from admission to the Program)

See Social Work Handbook: http://www.mac.edu/academics/programs/sw_handbook.asp

I certify that I have read the Social Work Code of Ethics and agree to adhere to the Code as a model for my conduct as a Social Work student.

I certify the above to be true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

II. Self-reflection Written Essay: Why do you want to be a Social Worker?

Excerpt from: Yip, K. (2006). Self reflection in reflective practice. *British Journal of Social Work*, 36(5): 777-788.

Practical reflection identifies and modifies professionals' personal assumptions underpinning practice. It seeks alternative responses, enhances professional understanding and affords personal insight (Schon, 1993; Hatton and Smith, 1995; Ruch, 2000).

Using your assignments from Introduction to Social Work (SCWK 203), attach your journal essays addressing the following questions:

- A. How do your "Roots" influence who you are today and your interest in Social Work? (Your "Roots" may address the following: family structure and characteristics; geographic part of the country you are from; rural or urban orientation; influences on values and beliefs about people, society, human life, its purpose, and how it should be lived).
- B. Your are a Person-in-Environment too!
Describe a personal change you have made in your life, how you were able to do so, why you made the change, and the long term effects of the change on *you and those in your environment*. Discuss how this experience might impact your work and professional development and understanding of the person-in-environment. What assets do you possess which enable you to help others?
- C. Your experience with *diversity* and beliefs about interactions with persons different from you (persons living with disabilities; populations at risk including the poor; various ethnic groups; gay, lesbian, bi-sexual or transgendered individuals; culture, gender or religious differences; and other people who may be of a different background than yourself). *How has this influenced your perspective on social work practice?*

III. Social Work Student Handbook Acknowledgement Form

The Social Work Student Handbook contains current guidelines and policies of the MacMurray Social Work Program. The Student Handbook is posted on the Social Work Department's Website: http://www.mac.edu/academics/programs/sw_handbook.asp and is available for review in the Department. MacMurray College and the Department reserve the right to revise its policies and guidelines with or without prior notice, and to depart from the policies and guidelines in individual circumstances where it is deemed advisable to do so. The Provisions of this handbook do not constitute a contract between the student and MacMurray College or the Social Work Department. By signing this form, I hereby acknowledge that I have read the Social Work Student Handbook of the MacMurray College Social Work Department and agree to abide by its contents.

Student Signature

Date

**STRENGTHS & WEAKNESSES/SOFT SPOTS
REVIEWING SOME BASIC SOCIAL WORK SKILLS**

1. **Competence: What do I do well?** Do I see myself as a person who is capable of getting things done? Do I have the resources needed to accomplish goals I set for myself? In what areas of life do I excel? In what areas of life would I want to be more competent than I am?

Strengths

Weakness/Soft Spots

2. **Autonomy: Can I make it on my own?** Can I get things done on my own? Do I avoid being overly dependent or independent? Am I reasonably interdependent in my work and social life. When I need help, do I find it easy to ask for it? Am I a self-starter and am I able to initiate and finish projects?

Strengths

Weakness/Soft Spots

3. **Values: What do I believe in?** What are my principal values? Do I allow for reasonable changes in my value system? Do I put my values into practice? Do any of the values I hold conflict with others? In what social settings do I pursue the values that are most important to me?

Strengths

Weakness/Soft Spots

4. **Identity: Who am I in this world?** Do I have a good sense of who I am and the direction I am going in life? Do the ways that others see me fit with the ways in which I see myself? Do I have some kind of center that gives meaning to my life? In what social settings do I have my best feelings for who I am? In what social settings do I lose my identity? In what ways am I confused or dissatisfied with who I am?

Strengths

Weakness/Soft Spots

5. **Diversity: Do I have an appreciation for diversity?** Am I sensitive to other cultures? Am I able to work with persons from other ethnic groups? If I learned a person was specifically gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered, would it influence my ability to work with that person? Do I think race should be considered for interventions, or should social workers be “color-blind”?

Strengths

Weakness/Soft Spots

6. **Lifelong Learning: Am I committed to a lifetime of learning and growth?** Do I regularly read professional journals in my field? Do I do more than the minimum requirements in coursework, projects and papers? Do I become defensive if supervisors offer feedback that may improve my knowledge and skill level? DO I know my personal learning style? Do I actively seek new learning experiences and take responsibility for self-discovery? Do I understand that good writing skills are essential to social work practice and strive to become a better writer?

Strengths

Weakness/Soft Spots

7. **Communication Skills: How well do I communicate with others?** Am I confident when I speak before groups and give public presentations? Do I have the ability to listen to others actively? Do I feel a sense of trust and empathy when persons are speaking to me? Am I able to challenge others reasonably as appropriate to the situation?

Strengths

Weakness/Soft Spots

8. **Career: What is the place of work in my life?** How do I feel about the way I am preparing myself for a career or the career I am currently pursuing? What do I get out of work? What am I like in the work place? How does it affect me? What impact do I have there?

Strengths

Weakness/Soft Spots

9. **Investment in the Wider Community: How big is my world?** How do I invest myself in the world outside of friends, work, and the family? Are human rights and global issues of concern to me? Do I have community, civic, political, social involvements or concerns? In what ways am I optimistic about the world? In what ways am I cynical?

Strengths

Weakness/Soft Spots

10. **Leisure: What do I do with my free time?** Do I feel that I have sufficient free time? How do I use my leisure? What do I get out of it? In what social settings do I spend my free time?

Strengths

Weakness/Soft Spots

WRITTEN PORTION:

- A. Many of the clients you will see will be struggling with similar developmental concerns. Like you, they will have both strengths and “soft spots” in these areas. In your opinion, which of the strengths you have noted will help you be a more effective problem solver? In what specific ways?
- B. In your opinion, which of the weaknesses you have noted might stand in the way of your being an effective practitioner? How do you plan to overcome it? What kinds of life skills do you think you need to become better at, not just to handle your own problems more effectively, but to be an effective problem solver?