Appendix A: Statement of Purpose for MSW Admissions

INSTRUCTIONS FOR STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Write a "statement of purpose." You must address <u>EACH</u> of the areas listed below in order. This statement must be typewritten and approximately 1,600 to 2,000 words in length. It should enable the Admissions Committee to make an informed decision about your potential for success in the graduate social work program.

1. Describe a) your background, b) the experiences you have had, and c) the skills that you have that may be of value in preparing you for entry into professional social work. Include in your presentation a discussion of any paid and/or volunteer social work experience(s) and its effect on you.

2. Explain the development of your interest in becoming a professional social worker. Include a discussion of your understanding of the social work profession and its mission. If this is a change of career goals, please indicate your reasons for the change.

3. Describe your career goals for the 3 to 5 years following completion of your MSW. Discuss your understanding of the social work profession and its values and specifically link your goals to the social work profession and its values.

4. Discuss your personal and professional development with regard to a) a commitment to social justice, b) cross-cultural awareness, and c) an empowerment perspective, which are the pillars in the Department of Social Work Education's mission statement. Provide relevant illustrations from your life experiences that reflect your commitment to these pillars.

5. Graduate school is a challenging experience. How do you anticipate your responses to the rigors of graduate school? Discuss your plan for completing the program, including a 16- 21 hour/week field internship, given your work and family responsibilities.

In preparing your statement, you may find it helpful to review introductory social work and social welfare texts and the websites of two major social work professional organizations (listed below).

www.cswe.org
www.naswdc.org