

SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM APPLICATION

Return both pages to Social Work Program Director, Holland Hall 213 by November 1st

Name _____ Class 20 _____

Requirements for the major that you have completed:

<u>Course</u>	<u>Semester Completed</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Sociology 121	_____	_____
Psychology 125	_____	_____
Psychology 241	_____	_____
Biology 123 or Biology 243	_____ _____	_____ _____
Social Work 221	_____	_____
Social Work 246	_____	_____
Social Work 254	_____	_____
Social Work 258	_____	_____
Global Component	_____	_____

Please write 2-3 pages about yourself, including the following information.

- How did your interest in social work as a profession develop?
- In what ways were family members, friends and other social workers influential?
- What other possibilities for a career did you consider?
- What particular concerns, location or population might be a special focus for you?

Social workers share a belief in common values that support their work with individuals, families groups, and communities; these values include self-determination, worth and dignity of every person, and belief in the reciprocal rights and responsibilities of person in relation to society, and a commitment to social justice.

- What values do you hold that you believe will support your work with people?
- What values, do you hold if any, that might be problematic?
- To what degree do you believe you are open to exploring your values, or to changing them?
- What role, if any does your spiritual or religious worldview play in your choice of social work?
- St. Olaf's mission states "...life is more than a livelihood". How might social work be considered a "calling" or "vocation" for you?
- Who has been the most supportive of your choice of social work as a major?
- Who, if anyone, has been opposed? How have you responded?
- What do you hope to be doing in 10 years?

Initiated: 1990
Revised: 2005
Reviewed: 2006

For Students' Information upon Application to the Social Work Program

The Social Work Program is committed to preparing students for all aspects of the profession as they prepare to work with vulnerable populations. Because social workers work with many vulnerable and dependent populations, security or criminal background checks are frequently required for employment or volunteer opportunities. Previous termination from volunteer, internship, or paid positions because of sexual abuse or harassment may also limit employment. Therefore, the Program wants students to be aware that past problems may limit employment opportunities.

The social work profession believes in the potential for individual growth and change. Applicants to the Program must assume responsibility for removing any barriers to their service to clients; chemical dependency, mental illness, emotional illness, substance abuse and severe unrelieved stress may impair service to clients. These issues should be confronted, resolved, or controlled before entering the Program.

To complete the social work major, students complete a semester long practicum experience in a social agency. Agencies may have particular requirements because of the population served and the service setting; they may require additional information from students to assure safety of clients, the confidentiality of services, and the absence of any conflicts with agency programs and policies.

When social work graduates apply for licensure and renewal in Minnesota, they are asked several ethical background questions. The following are some examples of those questions from the 2006 application form:

- Have you ever pled guilty to, pled no contest to, or been convicted of a misdemeanor, a gross misdemeanor, or felony, or are criminal charges pending against you? Include traffic offenses where the charge involves the use of alcohol or drugs even if the final conviction or plea is not related to the use of alcohol or drugs.
- Have you ever been disciplined, sanctioned or been found to have violated a professional association's code of ethics or a state, territorial, provincial, or foreign licensing agency's laws or rules or are any proceedings pending against you?
- Have you ever violated any state, territorial, provincial, or foreign licensing agency's law or rule related to the practice of social work not addressed in question 2 or are any proceedings pending against you?
- Have you ever relinquished your membership in a professional association or your license from a state, territorial, provincial, or foreign licensing agency while a complaint was pending against you?
- Have you ever applied for and been denied (a) membership in a professional association, or (b) licensure by a state, territorial, provincial, or foreign licensing agency or are any proceedings pending against you?
- In any paid or volunteer job you have held, have you ever been terminated, had a contract not renewed, been subjected to disciplinary action of any kind, or resigned in lieu of termination or disciplinary action?
- Are you now or have you ever been a party to civil litigation, arbitration, mediation, or a malpractice action related to any paid or volunteer job you have held?
- Have you ever (a) engaged in, or assisted an individual to engage in, the practice of social work without a license in a non-exempt setting, or (b) falsely used, or assisted an individual to falsely use, the title "social worker"?

If you have any concerns as you enter the social work program about your ability to practice social work upon graduation, please talk with one of the program faculty about your concerns. It is our goal to work with students to prepare successful graduates of our program, ready for beginning level ethical, professional practice.

"I have read the above material provided by the Social Work Program"

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Initiated: 2002
Updated: 2005
Reviewed: 2006