

Section G: Statement of Academic Research and Professional Practice Goals

HUSSW Mission Statement

Howard University School of Social Work is committed to educating advanced social work practitioners and future leaders for the purpose of enhancing human, organizational, social, and economic conditions which impact the quality of life of African Americans, other people of color, and people throughout the world. Consistent with the mission of Howard University, the School of Social Work is dedicated to the pursuit and advancement of knowledge through discovery, research, partnership, innovative practices, and other scholarly and educational endeavors of its faculty, students, and graduates. The School of Social Work places a high priority on advocacy for social justice and commitment to life-long learning through community service, international linkages, public policy and utilization of technology. The School's mission is an expression of the Black Perspective which evolved from the experiences of African Americans and African people throughout the Diaspora.

GUIDELINES Sec. G: Statement of Academic Research and Professional Practice Goals

The **Statement of Academic Research and Professional Practice Goals Essay** is an essential document in the admissions application process. It facilitates the Admissions Committee's understanding of you, your interests, and goals. Please respond to **EACH** of the following questions as you develop your essay.

1. What are your long-range and short-range career goals? Why are you requesting professional education at this time? In which social work field of practice do you plan to concentrate, family and child welfare services, criminal justice, mental health, health, social gerontology, or displaced populations? In which social work practice method do you plan to concentrate - Direct Practice, or Community, Administration & Policy (CAP) Practice?
2. What experiences (employment, community service, social, educational, personal or others) have significantly influenced your interest in social work? What experiences have contributed to your ability to understand and work with people?
3. Provide a candid discussion of your strengths and weaknesses. Which qualities do you consider essential for the social work profession?
4. Discuss what you consider to be the most important contemporary social issue(s) and/or problem(s). Provide evidence. What is the role of a social worker to address this issue?
5. Read carefully the *Mission Statement on the left side of the page*. How will your interests and career goals be met at the Howard University School of Social Work?
6. The School offers a limited number of highly competitive assistantships, tuition scholarships and stipends to eligible students. Eligibility may be based on academic performance, interest area, full-time enrollment, and need. Therefore, each applicant should give careful consideration to financial planning. State specifically your plan for financing your education.