EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

BASW

MISSION, GOALS and OBJECTIVES

Our mission/vision and goal statements reflect the reality of the tasks social workers perform in the workplace, based on national research findings describing the work BSWs actually do when providing social services, and local findings describing what BSW students actually do in their practicums. Additionally, since the 2000 self-study, we have incorporated a stronger emphasis on understanding the service delivery system and, most importantly, reshaping it as a client-centered service delivery system. This new emphasis is the result of qualitative assessment information for the past five years voiced by clients attending the Undergraduate Committee meetings and teaching segments of our classes. In selected core courses, clients have assumed a teaching role, thus permitting understandings of service delivery from a perspective not often heard in Schools of Social Work.

BASW MISSION/VISION

The BASW program’s emphasis on the human services delivery system reflects the reality of where most new social work professionals work: within community-based organizations, providing direct, case-level services to clients. Our students are prepared to practice effectively within these organizations from a strengths-based, ecological perspective. This means they have the skills to practice from a broad perspective, aware of the influences of politics, governments, economies, cultures, values, and worldviews on their clients and organizations. They recognize the impact these influences have on their organization’s ability to make a real difference in the world.

Social workers operate in this interdependent world as the link between people in need and the human services delivery system. This pivotal role gives them considerable power within the system, even as front-line social workers working at the case level. They are strategically placed within organizations to be active agents of influence and change throughout the system. With the skills and motivation to advocate for a more responsive and client-centered service delivery system, our graduates can ultimately emerge as leaders who contribute to grass-roots driven organizational and societal change.

Faculty believe our school’s professional responsibility is to prepare social work students to partner with clients and advocate for increased opportunities, access, power, and justice in our society. To that end, our program continues to experiment with teaching techniques that challenge future social workers to develop empathy and understanding of the realities of life for those they will serve.

Throughout the BASW program, course objectives, assignments, and classroom activities emphasize client-centered perspectives in practice, research, and policy. In our core courses, students are exposed to the voices and experiences of clients, so often unsolicited and discounted in the service delivery system. Clients of human service programs are hired as teachers to share their strengths and their stories about their lives as clients of the system. They work collaboratively with students on research activities, community and organizational projects, and advocacy activities.

These learning experiences and relationships prove to be growth-producing for all the participants. Clients-as-teachers develop their leadership skills as they relate their experiences with human service policies and practices, identifying those that are empowering and those that create more barriers than opportunities. Students develop empathy for consumers of human services and a more comprehensive understanding of the human service delivery system. They learn to identify and act on opportunities to advocate for a system that is beneficial, fair, and capable of producing real and lasting change for those they
The Council on Social Work Education has fully accredited EWU’s BASW and MSW programs.

### PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

1. Admission to Eastern Washington University. All University application reviews are prioritized based on date official transcript is received rather than date of application. Until that time, the admission and financial aid process will be delayed.

2. There is a separate application to The School of Social Work. Acceptance to one does not necessarily mean acceptance to the other. **An unofficial copy of all your transcripts must be included in your application to the School of Social Work even though you have submitted official copies to the University.**

3. Officially declare your major in social work. Application and acceptance to the social work program does not declare your major. For more information contact the Coordinator of Undergraduate Student Services at (509) 359-6482 or dsomerday@mail.ewu.edu.

4. Students must complete 73 credit hours of School of Social Work coursework over a 6 quarter period of time. Students must take the required courses in a sequenced order. Any deviation from the prescribed requirements must be discussed with the Coordinator of Undergraduate Student Services. The School reserves the right to change the order of classes if circumstances dictate.

5. Requirements for the completion of the BASW degree are clearly stated in the EWU Undergraduate Catalog (http://www.ewu.edu/new/academics/CatalogsCourseSchedules.html#catalogs) and the School's Undergraduate Handbook.

#### School of Social Work Application Checklist

1. Application form.
2. Personal Statement.
3. Two references forms completed and signed (can be mailed directly to the School from your reference).
4. Unofficial college transcripts.

School reviews applications when all materials are received and notifies candidates, by letter, as to their admission status. Applications are reviewed in terms of the qualifications of each applicant, not as they compare to an overall applicant pool. There is no application deadline date.

Mail this information to Admissions Student Services Coordinator, School of Social Work, Eastern Washington University, 121 Senior Hall, Cheney WA 99004-2441. The application may also be faxed to (509) 359-6475.
To Eastern Washington University, send:

1. **Undergraduate Admissions** application and a $50.00 non-refundable application fee. The application can be accessed at [www.ewu.edu](http://www.ewu.edu). **There is no fee to apply to The School of Social Work.**

2. **Official** copies of transcripts from every college or university you have attended. Official transcripts bear the seal of the university or college and are in an unopened university or college envelope. Transfer students who have completed two years of foreign language must submit high school transcripts to clear the requirement. Final official transcripts must be submitted after final term. Mail this information to Eastern Washington University, Office of Admissions, 101 Sutton Hall, Cheney, WA 99004-2441.

---

**FINANCIAL AID**

A (FAFSA) “Free Application for Federal Student Aid” form needs to be submitted with all financial aid applications. You can obtain this form on the Web at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). The FAFSA Title IV School Code for Eastern Washington University is: 003775.

Apply for financial aid at the same time you apply for admission to the University. Apply by February 15. Early application for financial aid (January) will maximize your chances of receiving an award for the following academic year.

The University Financial Aid and Scholarship Office has a packet of materials for those interested in financial aid options (work-study, student loans, scholarships). The Financial Aid office address is Eastern Washington University, 102 Sutton Hall, Cheney WA 99004-2441. The telephone number is (509) 359-2314, (509) 359-6216. You can also access financial aid and scholarship information through their website at [http://financialaid.ewu.edu/home.shtml](http://financialaid.ewu.edu/home.shtml). Apply for scholarships by February 1.

**Undergraduate Waivers:** EWU is a member of the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE), saving out-of-state students more than $6,500 annually. There is no WUE application. Awards are limited and priority will be given based on Admissions application date and GPA (minimum 2.5). Please call (509) 359-2397 if you have any questions.

**Student Employment:** The Career Services Office at EWU can assist you in finding both on and off-campus employment. Contact them at (509) 359-7071 or check out their website [http://www.ewu.edu/new/CareerSrv/InternshipsEmployment.html](http://www.ewu.edu/new/CareerSrv/InternshipsEmployment.html).
INSTRUCTION FOR PERSONAL STATEMENT

Your Personal Statement is a major factor used to evaluate your application file. The specificity and clarity of your remarks will assist faculty to assess your capacity and readiness for baccalaureate education, your writing skills, and your ability to achieve your goals in the program. The total number of pages for the personal statement should be 2-3 double-spaced, typed pages.

The personal statement gives you an opportunity to tell us about yourself and what has led you to this point in your life. The content should help us understand what life experiences have molded you as a potential student in the social work program.

In reviewing the statement, faculty will be looking for the following:

- Statements that reflect your values, beliefs, and attitudes about the people who use social services.
- Evidence that you have found ways to express your values, beliefs and attitudes in your relationships and/or work (volunteer or paid) experiences. We are looking for life experience, not necessarily social work experience.
- An awareness of major social issues affecting life in your community and the population you would like to work with when you complete your degree.
- An identification of your strengths as a person, as a student and as a potential social worker as well as an awareness of the factors that could hinder you.
- A plan through which you indicate how you have met or plan to meet General Education Core Requirements (GECR’s), University Proficiencies, Graduation requirements, and the foreign language requirement. (The Direct Transfer Agreement from any community college in the State of Washington and North Idaho College will complete all EWU GECR’s).

INFORMATION REGARDING THE RATING PROCESS

One faculty member will independently evaluate your application file. The “Personal Statement” is a major item used for evaluation so it is in your best interest to give careful attention to completing it. The specificity and clarity of your statement will assist the faculty in assessing your capacity and readiness for graduate education, your writing skills, and your ability to achieve your career goals within the framework of the School’s mission and educational resources. *

- If you have ever been convicted of a felony, please read the following: A significant number of social service agencies are now requiring background checks for practicum students. If you have ever been convicted of a felony, particularly a crime against a person, please include in your personal statement a description of the circumstances of the conviction. Describe what led to court action, year of conviction, and how you dealt with the conviction in terms of planning for a professional career in human services. While past experiences will not necessarily prevent admission to the School, they may restrict the availability of potential practicum placements.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have any questions about the BASW program or the application process call the Coordinator of Undergraduate Student Services at (509) 359-6482 or email dsomerday@mail.ewu.edu.