

## **Guidelines for Writing Your Personal Statement**

**In order to obtain a clearer view of who you are, why you have chosen the social work profession, your readiness for graduate education, and why you are applying to the WVU Division of Social Work, we ask you to submit a personal statement with your application. This statement is a very important part of your overall application. This statement should be no more than six and not less than three pages, typewritten and doubled spaced. Be sure to include your name and social security number on the cover page.**

### **Part I: Choice of Social Work as a Career**

Why are you seeking a graduate degree in social work at this time? Show any influences that your family, personal, educational, and vocational experiences have had on your choice of social work as a career.

What specific career goals and aspirations do you have following your graduation from the Master of Social Work Program at West Virginia University?

What are your expectations of graduate social work education?

Why have you chosen to apply to West Virginia University Division of Social Work that emphasizes social work practice in rural areas and small towns?

### **Part II: Personal Attributes**

Examine your personal strengths and limitations. Explain how your personal characteristics support, inhibit, and generally influence your ability to pursue graduate study and to establish a career in social work.

Discuss your experiences, feelings, and ideas about working with diverse populations (racial, ethnic, gender, disabled, aging, etc.)

### **Part III: Understanding of Social Issues**

Name five important social issues in the country and the world today. Discuss what you believe to be the most critical current social issue that you would want to actively address and why.