

SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM APPLICATION

Email your completed application to paulsons@stolaf.edu by November 1st

Name:

Class 20

Requirements for the major that you have completed:

Requirement	Course taken to fulfill requirement	Semester and Year	Grade
Sociology 121			
Psychology 125			
Psychology 241			
Biology 123			
Social Work 221			
Social Work 246			
Social Work 254			

Please address the following question in 1 – 2 pages.

- 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?
- 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 particular concerns, location or population might be a special focus for you?
- What do you hope to be doing in 10 years?

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.

Please address the following questions in 2 – 3 pages:

- 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?

For Students' Information upon Application to the Social Work Program (Please read and sign)

The Social Work Program is committed to preparing students as generalist practitioners, in accordance with our Program Mission. 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 social work licensure and renewal in Minnesota, they are asked several legal and ethical questions. The following are some examples of those questions from the 2022 application form:

1. Have you ever pled guilty to, pled no contest to, or been convicted of a misdemeanor, 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. YES NO
2. Are you currently unable to practice social work with reasonable skill and safety due to a mental or physical illness, or use of alcohol, drugs, or chemicals? NOTE: If you are currently participating in the Health Professionals Services Program ("HPSP") for this illness, you may answer "NO" to this question. YES NO
3. Have you ever violated a social work licensing board or authority's laws or rules related to the practice of social work? YES NO
4. Have you ever been denied a license by a licensing board or authority, investigated or disciplined by a licensing board or authority, or relinquished a license due to a violation of the licensing board or authority's laws or rules? NOTE: "Licensing" includes registration, credentialing, certification, or any other form of government regulation of individual practitioners. YES NO
5. In any paid or volunteer job, have you ever been terminated, resigned in lieu of termination, or been subjected to disciplinary action, due to conduct that may be grounds for disciplinary action under the Social Work Practice Act? YES NO
6. In any paid or volunteer job, have you ever been named as a defendant in a civil litigation, arbitration, or a malpractice action? YES NO
7. Have you ever been denied membership in a professional association, investigated or disciplined by a professional association, or relinquished membership in a professional association due to a violation of the professional association's code of ethics? YES NO
8. Have you ever been investigated by or subjected to disciplinary action by a post-secondary educational institution due to alleged misconduct? YES NO

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, and the Program Manual, provided by the Social Work Program"

Signed: _____

Date: _____