

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY – PUEBLO

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

Application for Admission to the Social Work Program

Admission to the University does not confer admission into the Social Work Program. Students who have declared a Social Work major must still apply for admission into the Social Work Program.

Prior to admission into upper level social work courses, students must:

- Complete all foundation social work and lower division social work-required courses with a grade of C or better and with a GPA in the social work and social work-required courses of 2.5 or better.
 - Students **should have completed all general education requirements** prior to admission to the Social Work Program
 - Social work and non social work-required courses which must be completed prior to admission to the program are:
 - SW 100, Introduction to Social Work
 - SW 201, Human Behavior and the Social Environment I
 - SW 202, Human Behavior and the Social Environment II
 - SW 205, Social Welfare in the United States
 - PSYCH 100, General Psychology
 - SOC 101, General Sociology
 - Human Biology
 - A political science or economics course
 - Students applying for admission to the Social Work Program may be enrolled in any of these courses during the semester of application, but final approval for admission into the program **will not be granted** until all the courses have been successfully completed.
- Complete and submit the Application for Admission to the Social Work Program, with all required documentation:
 - Completed application personal data sheet, with signature
 - Personal essay
 - Current unofficial transcripts from **each** institution attended (community college and four-year college/university) unless otherwise requested.
 - Signed acknowledgement of Social Work *Code of Ethics*
 - Statistical information sheet (optional)

- Two letters of reference, sent directly to the Department of Social Work administrative assistant on the Pueblo campus, GCB, room 310A.
 - If currently or previously employed, one reference should be from a work supervisor.
 - References from family members, fellow students, friends, and/or CSU-Pueblo social work faculty will not be accepted.
 - Only one reference may be from a faculty member at a college/university other than CSU-Pueblo Social Work professors.

Upon full receipt of the completed application, the social work faculty will review the application and will make a determination as to the status of the application. The student will receive written notification of the status of his/her application (acceptance into the Social Work Program, conditional acceptance into the Social Work Program, or denial of admission into the Social Work Program).

The completed Application, with all accompanying documents, is to be submitted no later than November 1st for the upcoming Spring or Summer semesters, and no later than April 1st for the upcoming Summer and Fall semesters. Applications will be accepted at any time during the year, however, may not be reviewed until after the deadline dates. Missed deadlines may impact both field eligibility and/or the proposed graduation date.

Completed applications and reference letters are to be submitted to:

Pueblo:

Colorado State University – Pueblo
Social Work Department Administrative Assistant
General Classroom Building, room 310A
2200 Bonforte Blvd.
Pueblo, Colorado 81001-4901

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Personal Data Sheet

(Please print or type)

Name: _____

PID: _____

Permanent mailing address:

Street

City

State

Zip

Telephone (with area code): _____

E-mail _____

Background Checks:

Almost without exception, social service agencies which meet our requirements for practicum placements require background checks as well as alcohol and drug testing at the student's expense. These policies are the policies of the social services agencies throughout this area, not Colorado State University – Pueblo policies nor the Department of Social Work policies. Having a criminal history may limit or prohibit a student's ability to obtain a field placement as well as limit or prohibit employment in social service agencies following graduation with a BSW degree.

It is recommended that any student who has concerns about undergoing a background check discuss the situation with his/her advisor or the Chair of the Department to determine the feasibility of pursuing admission to the Social Work Program before completing the process of application for admission into the Program.

By my signature below, I acknowledge understanding of the above and indicate my intention to apply for admission into the Social Work Program.

Have you ever been arrested or convicted of a crime? Yes No

Student Signature

Date

Student Name (print)

**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY-PUEBLO
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Application for Admission

Person-in Environment (PIE) Assessment

Please attached a 3-5 page essay which addresses the following:

- An assessment on the case study (attached) that is bio-psycho-social-spiritual and that covers micro, mezzo, macro, and diversity systems (be sure to address theories);
- Discuss ethical issues or dilemmas in the case study, including specific standards in the NASW Code of Ethics;
- Identify any social, economic, or environmental justice issues;
- Discuss how your experience in working with people who differ from you has prepared you to work with a client such as the one in this case study;
- What you would find difficult about working with the client in the case study and why, including your areas of strength and areas for improvement;
- Your goals and plans for a social work career, including the populations you would like to serve

The essay must be typed, double-spaced, and proofread for correct spelling and grammar. It must be professionally written and must follow APA style rules, as set out in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.)*.

Your essay will be scored based on the rubric attached.

Criteria	Unacceptable – 0	Acceptable – 1	Outstanding – 2
Use of APA	Essay is missing or has a coversheet, but not in APA style and/or essay is single spaced and/or essay does not have headings and/or running heads are absent or incorrect and/or essay does not use appropriate language to describe populations	Essay is in APA format, but the wrong edition, essay is double-spaced, has a running head, has headings, and uses appropriate language to describe populations; coversheet contains running head, page number, title, name, and affiliation, but may not be in correct order or may contain additional information	All criteria of APA 6 th edition is followed, including running heads, page numbers, spacing, margins, headings, citations, references, and appropriate language to describe populations; coversheet contains running head, page number, title, name, and affiliation
Stylistics	More than 7, spelling or grammatical errors	Essay contains few spelling or grammatical errors	Essay contains no spelling or grammatical errors
Understanding of NASW Code of Ethics and values	Essay does not mention the Code of Ethics or mentions the Code of Ethics in passing	Essay mentions Code of Ethics and describes selected ethical values	Essay describes selected ethical values and mentions ethical principles, and describes ethical conflicts presented in the case

Criteria	Unacceptable – 0	Acceptable – 1	Outstanding – 2
Understanding of Diversity	Student does not address diversity issues, or mentions diversity issues in passing and that attention should be paid to diversity issues	Generally competent, information is thin and commonplace. Student uses a mixture of opinions and scholarly sources throughout the paper to describe diversity issues. Issues of diversity are specific to the case presentation (ie., if the client is a woman, diversity issues about women are discussed)	Substantial information; thorough, insight, and analysis has taken place. Student has obviously thought critically about specific categories of oppression that are clearly related to the case presentation
Understanding of Theory	Theories of micro, mezzo, and macro systems are not addressed, or addressed incorrectly; student displays poor grasp of theory	Theories of micro, mezzo, and macro systems are mentioned and described correctly. Student displays a familiarity with major theories described and discussed	Theories of micro, mezzo, and macro systems are described and discussed thoroughly. Student displays an excellent understanding of the theories described and discussed in essay, including describing the appropriateness and applicability of the theory to the case assessment and suggestions for intervention
Role of Social Worker	Student does not address the role of social worker.	Student describes the role of the social worker in the assessment	Student describes the specific role the social worker must take based on the assessment and likely intervention(s) dependent on the theoretical framework(s) selected to understand the case assessment
Understanding of Use of Self	Essay describes or discusses life experiences or personal values, but does not describe how those experiences or values may affect clients; or, essay does not address life experiences or personal values that may affect work with clients	Essay describes or discusses life experiences and personal values, and makes shallow analysis of how these experiences and values may affect clients, and describes steps that can be taken to minimize the negative affects	Essay describes or discusses life experiences and personal values, and shows deep analysis of how these experiences and values may affect clients; steps that can be taken to minimize the negative affects show strong critical thinking skills and may include more than rote steps for improvement
Critical Self-reflection	Essay does not describe areas for improvement or mentions areas of improvement, but not steps that can be taken	Essay includes both positive and negative aspects of values, attitudes, or actions, and describes a few steps that can be taken to	Essay includes both positive and negative aspects of values, attitudes, or actions, and describes a few steps that can be taken to

Criteria	Unacceptable – 0	Acceptable – 1	Outstanding – 2
		minimize the negative effects on clients	minimize the negative effects on clients as well as how positive aspects can be used to support clients
Quality of Assessment	Student makes up information to add to case presentation in order to complete the assessment and/or is not able to grasp important safety issues or issues salient for intervention	Student assessment is shallow and focuses on one or two major issues presented in the case	Student displays good critical thinking skills, addressing major safety issues or issues salient for intervention. If the student focuses on several major issues, they describe their intent to focus on only those issues, while acknowledging other issues may exist
Recommendation for Intervention	Student does not make any recommendations for intervention, or interventions are not related to issues described in the assessment	Student makes standard recommendations for intervention; intervention recommendations show shallow analysis of understanding of the connection between assessment and intervention	Student makes unique or interesting suggestions for intervention that are clearly related to the assessment issues; student shows strong critical thinking skills and describes the connection between the assessment and recommendations for intervention
Totals			
Final score	_____ x .5 = _____		

CASE STUDY FOR BSW ADMISSION

Note: This case study does not describe an actual client or person. Any resemblance to a person is strictly coincidental and not intentional

You are a social worker in a community-based workforce agency. The agency is located in your local community (where you live). Sofia is a 24 year old Latina woman. Sofia is being referred to you due to lack of housing. During your meeting with Sofia, you learn that for the last three weeks, she has been staying with friends, but generally has to move every few days due to space issues and sometimes due to being asked to leave. Several of Sofia's friends have asked her to leave because Jordan, her ex-boyfriend, attempts to visit her at all hours of the day and night, and calls and texts her at least every hour. Sofia stated that she broke up with Jordan because the last time he hit her was the last straw for her. Sofia stated that Jordan needs to take an anger management class before she will get back into a relationship with him. She stated he has signed up for one and will be taking the class next week, so she may be able to move back in with him at that time.

Sofia stated that she had a normal childhood growing up in the local community. Both of her parents are still married and own a home in Florida, where they moved to be closer to her older brother. Her brother is 25 years old and is a marketing manager at a Fortune 500 company. Sofia spoke at length about how proud she is of her brother. "He is the shining star," stated Sofia, "everyone who meets him really likes him, and he is so smart!" Sofia and her brother, Robert, were close growing up. They were the only children in the family. At about age 16, Sofia stated she "started running with the wrong crowd," and got involved with school truancy, drugs and alcohol, and petty crimes. This caused much stress in the family, and Sofia's parents asked her to leave the home because she was disrupting Robert's education and home life. Sofia dropped out of school at age 17, when she gave birth to her older child, Thomas, who is now 7 years old. Thomas lives with his adoptive parents in Texas. Sofia stated that the adoptive parents, Tio Roberto and Tia Juanita, used to provide her with updates and pictures of Thomas, but since she became homeless, she has not had any updates. At age 18, Sofia gave birth to Daniel. Unfortunately, Daniel's father was "really abusive," according to Sofia, and Child Protective Services removed Daniel from her care. Sofia's parental rights were terminated and Daniel was adopted by his foster parents. Sofia has had no contact with Daniel since her parental rights were terminated.

At age 20, Sofia gave birth to Isabella. Sofia described Isabella's birth as "very difficult." Isabella was born at 26 weeks gestation and was 2 pounds at birth. Sofia stated, "I was in labor for days with her. They drug-tested her and took her away from me at the hospital. They said she tested positive for marijuana, but I know it was the poppy seed bagels I ate that morning. They wouldn't listen to me and took her away. I was so sad." Sofia stated that she was able to have Isabella returned to her when Isabella was about 11 months old. At that time, she met Jordan and they moved in together. During this time, she also began to rebuild her relationship with her parents and brother. However, her parents and Robert did not like Jordan. They advised her to end her relationship with Jordan. Sofia stated, "they insisted. It was Jordan or them. So I had to choose Jordan."

Sofia stated that she had two children with Jordan. Luis, who is 2 years old, and Mariana who is 1 year old. While pregnant with Mariana, Sofia ended up in the hospital with a broken arm, a broken jaw, bruises, and contusions. Sofia stated she fell down the stairs at her apartment complex, but that Child Protective Services insisted that Jordan had hurt her. They removed Isabella and Luis. After she gave birth, they removed Mariana from her care as well. Her parental rights were recently terminated. All three children are in the process of adoption with their foster parents.

Sofia stated that her recent problems with Jordan started about 3 months ago. "We were all stressed out about the kids. CPS had it in for us and the foster parents really wanted my babies. As far as I'm concerned, they kidnapped my babies." Sofia stated that she and Jordan started arguing more and that Jordan and she began to hit each other. She finally told Jordan that he needed to stop. About three weeks ago, Jordan slapped her across the face during an argument, pushed her against the wall, and threatened to stab her with a knife. Sofia said she left Jordan the next day, but had nowhere to go. Jordan had been opposed to Sofia working outside the home, as they had young children. After the children were removed, Jordan was convinced they would come back, so he told Sofia not to find a job. With no funds, Sofia turned to people she knew from her church. Sofia stated that she is Catholic and attends church each Sunday. She talked with Father Quinn, her priest, and he asked some of the congregants to provide a place for Sofia to stay. However, because Jordan keeps contacting her, she is usually asked to leave after a few days.

When asked what she hoped to accomplish in her work with you, Sofia stated, "I just need housing until next week. Jordan will take his anger management class and I can move back. We have been trying real hard to have another baby and I need to be back with him again. If you can find housing for me for a week, I should be fine."

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Social Work Code of Ethics

Students in a professional program are expected to subscribe to and abide by the professional *Code of Ethics*. Flagrant or repeated violation of the Social Work *Code of Ethics* may be grounds for dismissal from the program.

By your signature below, you acknowledge understanding of the NASW Social Work *Code of Ethics* and indicate that you agree to abide by the Code.

Student Signature

Date

Student Name (print)

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Statistical Information

The following information is optional and will be used for statistical accounting purposes only.

Date of Birth: _____

Gender (circle one): *Male* *Female*

U.S. citizen (circle one): *Yes* *No*

Race/Ethnicity: _____

Marital Status: _____

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY – PUEBLO
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Reference Request Student Name: _____

The above student is applying for admission into the Social Work Program at Colorado State University – Pueblo and has requested a reference from you.

I hereby waive _____ do not waive _____ the right to view references.

Student's signature _____ Date _____

Reference: Name: _____

Address: _____

Please answer the following questions as thoughtfully as possible. Feel free to add additional comments on the back if necessary.

1. I have known the applicant for _____ years/months in the capacity of _____
_____.
2. Do you have personal knowledge of the capacity of the applicant to perform the work required in social services? Yes No If yes, please indicate the nature of this experience and your assessment of the applicant's performance.
3. What do you consider the applicant's major strength(s) as a potential professional social worker?
4. What do you consider the applicant's area(s) for improvement as a potential professional social worker?
5. Are there any additional comments or concerns that you have?

Please rate the applicant on each of the following as compared to _____ post-secondary students _____ social work majors _____ practicing social workers with BSW degree:

Level of maturity and emotional stability	Upper 10%	Upper 25%	Upper 50%	Lower 25%	Lowest 10%	Unable to Judge
Understanding of self						
Sensitivity to needs and feelings of others						
Quality of relationships with people						
Respects differences in people (race, class, culture, sex, ethnicity, etc.)						
Works with differences in people (race, class, culture, sex, ethnicity, etc.)						
Concern and commitment to work toward solving social problems						
Ability to initiate and follow through						
Willingness to accept direction						
Creativity						
Ethical behavior						
Ability to communicate verbally						
Ability to communicate in writing						
Participates as a team member						

1. Summary evaluation/recommendation:

- _____ Strongly recommended
- _____ Recommended
- _____ Recommended with reservation
- _____ Not recommended

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return the completed form to:
 Colorado State University-Pueblo
 Social Work Department
 GCB 310A
 2200 Bonforte Blvd.
 Pueblo, Colorado 81001-4901

Thank you.

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Works with differences in people (race, class, culture, sex, ethnicity, etc.)						
Concern and commitment to work toward solving social problems						
Ability to initiate and follow through						
Willingness to accept direction						
Creativity						
Ethical behavior						
Ability to communicate verbally						
Ability to communicate in writing						
Participates as a team member						

1. Summary evaluation/recommendation:

- _____ Strongly recommended
- _____ Recommended
- _____ Recommended with reservation
- _____ Not recommended

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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 Pueblo, Colorado 81001-4901

Thank you.