Goal Statement Guidelines

The purpose of the goal statement is to determine if what you want to learn is a "match" with what the field site has to offer. The goal statement document is an opportunity for you to demonstrate professional writing. It should allow potential field instructors to view a "snapshot" of your interests, why you chose social work as a career, and the impact you want to make.

As you write your goal statement, remember that professional graduate school is preparing you to become a provider of service. You should think about and refer to:

- Any of the following: NASW Code of Ethics, NABSW Code of Ethics, IFSW Code of Ethics, United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- A job description (examples here, or external job boards and listings) for a potential first post-graduation social work job

The goal statement must:

- Be written in a narrative format—it functions as a writing sample.
- Provide behaviorally specific examples.
- This is a public document and is shared electronically with your field instructor and your potential colleagues, so please be cautious when sharing private information.
- Be no longer than 2 pages, double spaced, and no smaller than 12 pt. font
- Include all of the following information:
  - **Header**
    - Full name & pronouns
    - Pathway
    - Curriculum schedule (16-month, 20-month, advanced standing, micromasters, part-time, global, national or PhD Candidate)
    - Special Scholar Program (if applicable)
  - **Content**
    - Please describe what impact you want to make as a social worker and service provider (identify one of the Grand Challenges of Social Work when answering this question).
    - As you transition to becoming a service provider, select two skill categories from the field application that you hope to develop. Tell us how these skills might be transferable to multiple social work settings.
Tell us how you will utilize supervision and how you will respond to critical feedback.

Most professional social work jobs require a blend of work in **micro, mezzo, and macro areas**. How do you envision this blend for your field placement?

Identify two of your current strengths, and share your aspirations for your first job as a professional social worker.

**Reminder**: You have the opportunity to have the U-M SSW Career Center review your goal statement prior to submitting your field application to the Office of Field Education. Please contact them directly for assistance at: **ssw-cso@umich.edu** or (734) 763-6259

**Additional Resources**

- For more information on Learning Styles, [take this quiz](#)
- [Field Education Modules](#) and [Becoming a Professional Worker Module](#)
- Introduction to online [e-Portfolio Module](#)