

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](#)