

2023-2024 Guide for MSW Recommenders

Thank you for serving as a reference. We greatly appreciate that you are taking time out of your busy schedule to support future social workers! Your honesty and insight are important, and your recommendation is greatly valued by our admissions committee.

If you know of other students, friends, or colleagues who are passionate about [our mission](#) and interested in our top ranked [academic programs](#), please encourage them to [apply](#)!

Being a Reference: What to Expect

As soon as an applicant designates you as a reference on their MSW application, you'll receive an email from appygrad@uw.edu with a link to a recommendation form. It is critical that you complete your recommendation by the listed deadline in order for the applicant to get full consideration.

- *January 16th, 2024 : Advanced Standing Program Application Deadline*
 - **January 23rd, 2024: Advanced Standing Program Recommender Deadline**
- *January 16th, 2024 : Day Program Application Deadline*
 - **January 23rd, 2024: Day Program Recommender Deadline**
- *January 16th, 2024: Extended Degree Program Priority Application Deadline*
- *February 15th, 2024: Extended Degree Program Application Deadline*
 - **February 22nd, 2024: Extended Degree Program Recommender Deadline**

Evaluation Form: You will have the opportunity to rate the applicant on a number of skills/abilities.

Assessment Letter: You will upload a short response to the following prompt. You are welcome to write in whichever language is most comfortable. A formal letter is not required.

Social Work entails responsibility to people in need of a variety of services. To learn more about the field of social work, review [this webpage](#).

1. We are interested in applicants who are prepared for graduate-level studies, have [relevant experience](#), a demonstrated commitment to social work, and will bring a unique perspective. What do you see as the applicant's strengths in these areas? (200-400 words)
 2. What are areas of growth for the applicant? (50-100 words)
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Avoiding Bias: We all hold both positive and negative biases, often unconsciously and sometimes these biases can enter into our language. Use these tips to avoid writing a biased assessment:

- **Stick to the prompts!** The above prompts identify the exact information the Admissions Committee is interested in.
- **Focus on skills you have observed**, rather than personality traits
- **Mention the applicant's accomplishments** (letters of recommendation for women and people of color are less likely to mention the applicant's accomplishments)
- **Avoid gendered adjectives** - use the [gender bias calculator](#) to identify them!

Thank you again for your time and support of this applicant's candidacy! Please email uwsocialwork@uw.edu if you have any questions.