



NEW MEXICO
HIGHLANDS
UNIVERSITY®

School of Social Work

2010-2011

Graduate Admission Application
Deadline: February 15, 2010

The mission of the School of Social Work is to educate students to practice Social Work sensitively and competently with the diverse, multi-cultural populations of New Mexico and the southwest. The School has a primary commitment to Hispanic and American Indian people. Its curriculum grounds students in Social Work knowledge, skills, values, ethical principles and awareness and respect for cultural and gender differences

School of Social Work
PO Box 9000
Las Vegas, New Mexico 87701
(505) 454-3310
www.nmhu.edu/socialwork
e-mail: socialwork@nmhu.edu

If you are claiming New Mexico residency for in-state tuition classification, you must complete the following section. Failure to provide complete information will result in automatic non-resident status.

Place of Birth (city) _____ (state) _____

Are you a resident of New Mexico or Colorado? Yes _____ No _____ Yes If so, how long? (yrs) _____

State of legal residence _____ County of legal residence _____

As of the date of this application, how long have you been living continuously in the state of New Mexico? _____

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ONLY: (Not U.S. Permanent residents or citizens)

Country of Citizenship _____ Your passport has been or will be issued by what country? _____ (if transferring from a U.S. institution, please submit a copy of the passport Form 1-94 showing appropriate current student visa status.)

Where are you currently a resident? _____ Do you hold any current U.S. Visa? _____

If so, which visa and when does it expire? _____ If you will be coming to NMHU from within the U.S., when did you arrive? _____ If you have been studying in the U.S., do you have a current I-20? _____ If so, from which institution and when does it expire _____

What is your native language? _____

By what method do you intend to demonstrate English proficiency? _____

Permanent Resident Asylee, and Refugee must provide copies of documentation

Academic History and Records:

Last High School Attended OR GED taken _____ City _____ State _____ Date MM/YY _____

List all colleges, universities or other post secondary schools attended.

INSTITUTION	CITY/STATE	DATES ATTENDED	DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE EARNED	DATE DEGREE CONFERRED OR EXPECTED

Undergraduate degree major(s) _____ Graduate degree major (if applicable) _____

CAREER OBJECTIVE NARRATIVE STATEMENT: Your responses to the following questions provide the Admissions Committee with information to evaluate your application and determine your suitability for the social work profession. Please answer all questions fully. A minimum of 6 and a maximum of 8 typewritten, double-spaced pages for all 5 questions is recommended. See instructions on page 4 of this bulletin.

1.Prepare a statement about your academic and professional background and life experiences as they relate to your interest in the profession of Social Work. Include any specific work or volunteer experience you have had in helping other persons. Explain how these experiences may have: (1) contributed to your decision to seek a career in Social Work; and (2) influenced you to continue your professional education.

2.Describe any life volunteer, work, or school experiences that have contributed to your understanding of and desire to work with disadvantaged groups, ethnic and cultural minorities and other diverse populations.

3.Discuss your professional goals in relation to the area of concentration you have selected. Indicate which field of practice, client groups, and special social problems interest you and why.

4.Discuss your understanding of the Social Work profession and the characteristics you have that you believe will make you an effective Social Worker. What skills and knowledge do you want to develop through your Social Work education? What do you currently see as your strengths and limitations?

5.Have you ever been convicted of a crime? **Include any misdemeanors, felonies, or suspensions from other universities.** _____ No _____ Yes (If yes, please provide an explanation specifying the sentence or other remedy imposed. An Authorization for Release form will need to be completed. This form can be obtained by calling the Social Work Admissions Office at (505) 454-3310. It will only be given to the student upon request.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY: List the most recent paid positions you have held in any field or organization. Include military service. A résumé is acceptable.

NAME OF AGENCY CITY,STATE	POSITION/TITLE DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES		<i>EMPLOYMENT DATES</i>	
1				
2				
3				

VOLUNTEER HISTORY: Describe any volunteer experience you have had in any field or organization. Indicate your total time commitment. Do not include Field/Practicum experience. A résumé is acceptable.

NAME OF AGENCY CITY,STATE	POSITION/TITLE DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES	<i>SUPERVISOR</i>	<i>EMPLOYMENT DATES</i>	
1				
2				
3				

NAME OF AGENCY CITY,STATE	POSITION/TITLE DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES	SUPERVISOR	EMPLOYMENT DATES

FIELD PRACTICUM EXPERIENCE: List Field Practicum placements in a human service agency. Indicate the type of agency and the clock hours completed. Use additional sheets if necessary. List most recent placement first.

NAME OF AGENCY/CITY/STATE	TYPE OF AGENCY NATURE OF WORK	NUMBER OF HOURS

References: Please provide the names of the three persons who will submit evaluations as part of your application. Family members are not acceptable.

IMPORTANT - Advanced Standing Applicants Only: It is necessary to submit a reference form from your Field Practicum Supervisor.

REFERENCE: _____ REFERENCE: _____ REFERENCE: _____

How did you learn about of the NMHU Graduate School of Social Work? _____

I certify that the information I have given on this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand these documents become the property of NMHU and will not be returned, transferred or duplicated for any other purpose. I also understand if accepted, my admission is subject to verification of all official records and submission of false information is grounds for rejection of my application, withdrawal from the program or cancellation of acceptance.

Signature: _____ Name (Please Print): _____ Date: _____

E-mail completed application packet and all its contents to:
socialwork@nmhu.edu

Mailing Address:

NMHU School of Social Work
 Attn: Lawrence M. Montaño
 PO Box 9000
 Las Vegas, New Mexico 87701

Delivery Address:

NMHU School of Social Work
 Attn: Lawrence M. Montaño
 1005 Diamond Avenue
 Las Vegas, New Mexico 87701

New Mexico Highlands University

School of Social Work

Request for Reference Form

This section to be completed by applicant:

Date: ____/____/____

Applicant's Name: _____

Name of person providing reference: _____

Current federal and state laws require us to make available to a student the contents of the student's file, unless the student has waived the right to access. Indicate your choice regarding right to access below. If you waive your right to access, we will keep the information on this form confidential. If not, we must make it available to you upon request.

WAIVER OF RIGHT OF ACCESS

____ I do waive my right of access to review the information contained in this reference form.

____ I do not waive my right of access to review the information contained in this reference form.

Applicant Signature

This section to be completed by the individual providing the reference. Reviewer - please complete the information on both sides of this form. Use additional sheets if necessary. Your candid completion of this evaluation is appreciated. Applications cannot be reviewed without this reference material. References should be professional colleagues or faculty. Family members will not be accepted.

1 In what capacity and length of time have you known the applicant? _____

2 Please rate the applicant in comparison with persons you have known who are similar in age and experience.

Please rate the applicant using a five point scale:	Exceptional 5	Above Average 4	Average 3	Below Average 2	Unable To Evaluate 1	
Intellectual Ability						
Emotional Maturity & Stability						
Leadership Ability						
Oral Communication Skills						
Adheres to Ethical Standards						
Ability to Accept Constructive Feedback						
Ability to Work with Others						
Work Experience with Diverse Populations						
Technical Writing Skills						
Advocacy Skills						
Sensitivity to and capacity for accepting differences in diverse populations						
Totals						

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Ability to Work with Others					
Work Experience with Diverse Populations					
Technical Writing Skills					
Advocacy Skills					
Sensitivity to and capacity for accepting differences in diverse populations					
Totals					

1. What major strengths and skills does the applicant possess? How will these skills impact the applicant's ability to practice in the Social Work profession? If applicable, how does the applicant relate to clients?

2. In what area(s) does the applicant need further development?

3. We are interested in your comments regarding this applicant's aptitude for graduate study and a career in Social Work.

Please indicate your recommendation for this applicant's admission:

___ [4] Recommend highly

___ [2] Recommend with Reservation

___ [3] Recommend

___ [1] Do not Recommend

Name and Title: _____ E-
Mail _____ Phone: _____

(Address)

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Please mail this form directly to the NMHU School of Social Work. Your prompt response will expedite the admission review process for this applicant. Thank you for your assistance.

**Return completed Reference Form to:
NMHU School of Social Work, Office of Admissions, Box 9000, Las Vegas, NM
87701 or fax to: (505) 454-3290**

New Mexico Highlands University

School of Social Work

Request for Reference Form

This section to be completed by applicant:

Date: ____/____/____

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Name of person providing reference: _____

Current federal and state laws require us to make available to a student the contents of the student's file, unless the student has waived the right to access. Indicate your choice regarding right to access below. If you waive your right to access, we will keep the information on this form confidential. If not, we must make it available to you upon request.

WAIVER OF RIGHT OF ACCESS

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____ I do not waive my right of access to review the information contained in this reference form.

Applicant Signature

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Please indicate your recommendation for this applicant's admission:

___ [4] Recommend highly

___ [2] Recommend with Reservation

___ [3] Recommend

___ [1] Do not Recommend

Name and Title: _____ E-

Mail _____ Phone: _____

(Address)

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Please mail this form directly to the NMHU School of Social Work. Your prompt response will expedite the admission review process for this applicant. Thank you for your assistance.

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87701 or fax to: (505) 454-3290**

Instructions for Psychosocial Assessment

This requirement is for applicants applying to the Advanced Standing Program Only. This is not required of students applying to the 2-year or part-time program.

Please choose one of the following four films as the basis for your psychosocial assessment, theory-based analysis, and treatment plan:

The Color Purple (this is also a book by Alice Walker). This film/book depicts intergenerational processes in an African American family. The psychosocial assessment should be on the character '**Celie**'.

Ordinary People (This is also a book by Judith Guest). This film/book depicts intergenerational processes in an Anglo family. The psychosocial assessment should be on the character '**Conrad**'.

El Norte This film depicts intergenerational processes in a Latin American immigrant family. The psychosocial assessment should be on either the '**Enrique**' or '**Rosa**' character.

The Doe Boy: This film depicts intergenerational processes in a Cherokee family. The psychosocial assessment should be on the character '**Young Hunter**'-the boy.

Note: In order to proceed with this assignment, you will have to choose a point in time in the development of the character and his/her story to begin your assessment. Also, you will have to creatively insert yourself in the story as the social worker.

ASSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS (3 SECTIONS)

SECTION 1

Using the form below, complete a psychosocial assessment of the character you have chosen. USE EACH TOPIC IN THE PSYCHSOCIAL ASSESSMENT FORM BELOW AS A PARAGRAPH HEADING IN YOUR PAPER.

- (i.e. I. Identifying Information
II. Reason for Referral
III. Presenting Problem, etc.)

BE SURE TO ADDRESS EACH TOPIC HEADING ON THE FORM BELOW. (5 pages)

Psychosocial Assessment Form

1. Identifying information: demographics, work, family, prior treatment, home/living situation
2. Reason for referral/route of referral
3. Presenting problem: history of problem, prior attempts to solve problem
4. Physical/behavioral observations: physical appearance, grooming, indications of organic problems, mood, unusual habits.
5. How you relate to each other: communication style of client, nonverbal communication, emotional state of the client, your feelings about client, including empathic connection or lack, feelings evoked transference/counter transference issues
6. Developmental history: childhood, adolescence, adulthood, education, relationships, parenthood or not; divorces/separations; losses.
7. Current ego psychological profile: significant relationship; (family situation; general mood; ego functioning including defensive functioning, anxiety, impulses, superego, object relations).
8. History of trauma: abuse, violence, substance abuse, traumatic losses, etc.
9. Factors of diversity: culture, race, ethnicity, gender, age, class, sexual orientation,

religion/spirituality; differential physical or mental abilities. Intergenerational factors.

10. Psychosocial effects of oppression: "violations of clients space, time, energy, mobility, bonding, or identity due to membership in a marginalized population group; alienation from self or others due to institutionalized oppression, stage of identity formation as member of a group; strengths, resources, and sources of personal power in responding to oppression; primary patterns of coping with membership in a marginalized group" (Van Voorhis, 1998, p. 124).
11. Grief issues
12. Attitudes toward parenting nurturing and development. Joys and problems
13. Social networks: family and friends, coworkers, etc.; short-term or long; supportive, draining, conflictual.
14. Home environment: conditions, hazards, supports; source of stimulation, peace, conflict, etc.
15. Other relevant information Genetic/dynamic speculation below: Weave together biological, psychological, social aspects of client's past and present into speculation about dynamics, the interaction of actors contributing to client's current difficulties. Goal is to move beyond "what" of person's self and situation into "how" and "why". The goal of this aspect of the assessment is to bring all salient aspects of person's story into a critical speculation about his/her current situation in order to set parameters for the treatment plan.
 - a) To what extent does problem involve stress due to current developmental tasks (adolescence, parenting, etc.) or current situational stress or trauma?
 - b) To what extent does problem involve impairments in ego functioning and/or developmental deficits or difficulties.
 - c) To what extent is problem result of lack of fit between needs and environmental resources?
 - d) What internal and environmental strengths does client have that can be used to work toward improvement in the situation and/or functioning? (Goldstein, 1995). Van Voorhis, R M. (1998). Culturally relevant practice: A framework for teaching the psychosocial dynamics of oppression. Journal of Social Work Education, 34,1, 121-133.

SECTION 2

Next, choose a theoretical approach from the three options below to analyze the data in your psychosocial assessment.

- a. Empowerment/strengths perspective
- b. Ego psychology
- c. Feminist perspective

Choose one of these perspectives to present a theory-based, person-in-environment formulation of the dynamics of the client's (i.e. character's) current situation. In this section, you pull together the descriptive data on the client's life and situation that you presented in your psychosocial assessment into a critical and theory-based analysis of the dynamics of the client's problems and strengths. The client data from **Section 1** above should be related as fully as possible to the theoretical approach that you have chosen. (2 pages)

SECTION 3

In this **treatment plan** section of your assessment identify challenges and problems to be addressed and present goals and interventions (helping efforts) that are consistent with the theoretical approach that you have chosen above. Formulate four goals with their associated tasks for client and worker (the goals can be short-term, long-term or both). The goals should be consistent with the theoretical approach that you have chosen above. (2 pages)