FALL 2015 PERSONAL STATEMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Each applicant is required to complete a personal statement which will be used for the purpose of evaluating your application to the MSW program. This statement is an opportunity for you to describe your interest in social work and to demonstrate how your academic, personal, and professional experiences have contributed to your choice to enter an MSW program.

NOTE: Please answer ALL six questions. Your personal statement must be five-to-seven pages, typed and use a question and answer format (type the full text of the question followed by your corresponding answer). In addition, the statement should be double-spaced, in Times New Roman 12 point font, have one inch margins, and include your full name and the page number at the top of each page (e.g. Marlene Cardozo 1).

Personal Statement Questions:

1. The CSUN MSW social work program has an urban focus and strives to train students to be competent in individual, organizational, community, and policy level (i.e. micro, mezzo and macro) interventions. Discuss your compatibility with our generalist program.

2. Describe your understanding of the social work profession, its code of ethics and core values.

3. What professional and/or personal experiences have you had in dealing with:
   a. forms of oppression (such as ageism, homophobia, racism, sexism)?
   b. your own biases/privilege(s)?

4. What barriers or challenges do you anticipate in working with any of the populations listed in question #3?

5. What experiences and relevant skills (past and present) would contribute to your ability to work effectively with people from diverse populations (i.e., disability status, socioeconomic status, race and ethnicity, the LGBTQ community, consumers of social/mental health services)?

6. Identify a social justice-related problem that concerns you. How do you envision a social worker’s role in addressing the issue?

NOTE: Please include any additional information you would like to bring to the attention of the MSW Admissions Committee.