MPH/MSW Guidelines for Writing the Personal Statement

The faculty of the School of Social Welfare and School of Public Health separately evaluate your application. You will be submitting a variety of evidence concerning your ability to undertake a graduate program in social welfare and public health. An important component in your application is the content of your personal statement. The length of this statement should be 1-4 pages, double-spaced. Use the outline that follows to complete your personal statement.

A. The Professions of Social Welfare and Public Health as a Career Goal

1. Why does a career combining social welfare and public health appeal to you?
2. Describe how your personal and intellectual qualifications, past health and human service experience and/or future goals are relevant to assisting communities and the most economically and socially disadvantaged groups in our society. Please use specific examples.
3. What particular aspects or special fields of social welfare and public health interest you most?

B. Experience as a Student

1. How do you expect your performance in graduate school to compare with your performance as an undergraduate student?
2. Give reasons for any differences you may anticipate.

C. Work/Volunteer Experience

1. Describe your experience in any human services professional or volunteer role.

D. Other Experience

1. Describe your experience/participation in school and community activities.
2. Describe your experience in the helping role, such as with family, friends, peers, or colleagues in which you gave or received help.