

SOUTHERN CT STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Social Work
2022 APPLICATIONS ESSAY

Social work is a profession that is rooted in a specific “Code of Ethics” that are defined by National Association of Social Work (NASW). Please read this Code of Ethics before beginning your application Essay.

NASW Code of Ethics: Ethical Values

The following broad ethical principles are based on social work's core values of service, social justice, dignity and worth of the person, importance of human relationships, integrity, and competence. These principles set forth ideals to which all social workers should aspire.

Value: Service

Ethical Principle: *Social workers' primary goal is to help people in need and to address social problems.* Social workers elevate service to others above self-interest. Social workers draw on their knowledge, values, and skills to help people in need and to address social problems. Social workers are encouraged to volunteer some portion of their professional skills with no expectation of significant financial return.

Value: Social Justice

Ethical Principle: *Social workers challenge social injustice.* Social workers pursue social change, particularly with and on behalf of vulnerable and oppressed individuals and groups of people. Social workers' social change efforts are focused primarily on issues of poverty, unemployment, discrimination, and other forms of social injustice. These activities seek to promote sensitivity to and knowledge about oppression and cultural and ethnic diversity. Social workers strive to ensure access to needed information, services, and resources; equality of opportunity; and meaningful participation in decision making for all people.

Value: Dignity and Worth of the Person

Ethical Principle: *Social workers respect the inherent dignity and worth of the person.* Social workers treat each person in a caring and respectful fashion, mindful of individual differences and cultural and ethnic diversity. Social workers promote clients' socially responsible self-determination. Social workers seek to enhance clients' capacity and opportunity to change and to address their own needs. Social workers are cognizant of their dual responsibility to clients and to the broader society. They seek to resolve conflicts between clients' interests and the broader society's interests in a socially responsible manner consistent with the values, ethical principles, and ethical standards of the profession.

Value: Importance of Human Relationships

Ethical Principle: *Social workers recognize the central importance of human relationships.* Social workers understand that relationships between and among people are an important vehicle for change. Social workers engage people as partners in the helping process. Social workers seek to strengthen relationships among people in a purposeful effort to promote, restore, maintain, and enhance the well-being of individuals, families, social groups, organizations, and communities.

Value: Integrity

Ethical Principle: *Social workers behave in a trustworthy manner.* Social workers are continually aware of the profession's mission, values, ethical principles, and ethical standards and practice in a manner consistent with them. Social workers act honestly and responsibly and promote ethical practices on the part of the organizations with which they are affiliated.

Value: Competence

Ethical Principle: *Social workers practice within their areas of competence and develop and enhance their professional expertise.* Social workers continually strive to increase their professional knowledge and skills and to apply them in practice. Social workers should aspire to contribute to the knowledge base of the profession.

2022 APPLICATIONS ESSAY

Please respond to ONE of the following three prompts:

Your response must include reference to **at least one (1) of the six (6) Ethical Values** in the NASW Code of Ethics presented on the previous page.

1. **Think of a time when you questioned and challenged one of your beliefs.**
 - a. What caused you to change your mind?
 - b. What was the result?
 - c. Include discussion about at least one of the Ethical Values listed in the Code of Ethics which is relevant to this experience.

2. **What activity, idea, or hope captivates you?**
 - a. How does this work as a motivation in your life through the ups and downs?
 - b. Include discussion about at least one of the Ethical Values listed in the Code of Ethics which is relevant to this response.

3. **American actress Lily Tomlin said, "I always wondered why somebody doesn't do something about that. Then I realized I was somebody."**
 - a. Describe what this quote means to you and explain an example of a time you've taken an action to fix a problem.
 - b. Include discussion about at least one of the Ethical Values listed in the Code of Ethics which is relevant to this example.

4. **American writer James Baldwin said, "to be a Negro in this country and to be relatively conscious is to be in a rage all the time."**
 - a. How has race and/or racism impacted you?
 - b. As a social work student, what role do you see yourself playing to advance racial justice in our community?
 - c. Include discussion about at least one of the Ethical Values listed in the Code of Ethics which is relevant to this response.