



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
BAKERSFIELD

Department of Social Work

Writing Exam Prompt for the Fall 2026 CSUB MSW Writing Exam

During the exam, applicants will write a two-page essay (double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12-point font) that addresses the following areas. Your response should be structured with an introduction, thematic body paragraphs, and a conclusion. The primary focus should be on your academic background, professional experiences, and the qualities that demonstrate your readiness for graduate-level study and a career in social work. You will have a maximum of 2 hours to complete the writing exam and may not use any outside materials or the Internet during the exam.

In your essay, please address *all* the following:

1. Discuss the academic and/or professional experiences, skills, and attributes that have prepared you for success in graduate school and the social work profession.
2. Discuss your academic and/or professional experiences, skills, attributes, and values that align with the social work profession.
3. Articulate your career goals within the field of social work and how your academic and/or professional background supports those objectives.
4. Describe how you have demonstrated a commitment to social justice or social change in an academic, volunteer, or professional context.
5. Identify specific social work issues or populations that you are most interested in working with and explain why.
6. Explain why you believe the CSUB Department of Social Work is a strong fit for your educational and professional goals.

Your response will be evaluated based on clarity, organization, depth of reflection, and relevance to the field of social work.

Applicants are required to complete the MSW Writing Exam through the CSUB Testing Center.

To schedule an appointment call (661) 654-3373 or 654-6525