

## Advanced Standing Program: Practice Example and Personal Statement

Please submit a practice example discussion (Part I) and personal statement (Part II) using the guidelines below. The total of both parts should be no more than 5-6 pages. Please adhere to this page range. Refer to the program website at <http://www.brockport.edu/grcmsw/> for information on the program that will assist in writing both parts.

### Part I Practice Example

For practice example: please see Case Study for Practice Example: The Ortega Family below; Use the practice example to discuss the following points:

- Discuss the theoretical perspectives that guide your understanding of this family system.
- Present your assessment of this family system (from the individual, family, group, organization, and community perspectives).
- Indicate an intervention for each system level (individual, family, group, organization, & community.)
- Detail your plan to evaluate each of your interventions for effectiveness.
- Describe what you need to know about policy that guides your understanding of this family system.
- Discuss the cultural and social and economic justice considerations that influence your practice in working with this family
- Discuss how the NASW Code of Ethics guides your practice in working with this family.

### Part II Personal Statement

- Clearly put forth your personal and professional goals in undertaking the MSW degree and a clear rationale for pursuing an MSW.
- Articulate your personal and professional readiness to undertake graduate social work education at this time, including your academic preparation, your relevant work history, your level of self-awareness and maturity, and any other relevant information.
- Clearly articulate why the GRC MSW Program is the most appropriate program for you and how it will help you achieve your professional goals.

Please note that your practice example discussion and personal statement are evaluated based on the quality of discussion of each of the above points.

### **Case Study for Practice Example: The Ortega Family**

Eighty-year-old widowed Anita Ortega resides in a single-family home in a middle-class neighborhood with her 59-year-old, single, never married son Pedro. Reportedly, Anita suffers from Alzheimer's disease and has recently been declared legally incapacitated to make personal decisions or to control her finances. She is still able to do some activities of daily living

independently and has not exhibited significant agitation. She is able to ambulate independently and does not experience incontinence. She needs supervision during the day, however, because she has a tendency to wander away from home if left alone. Most nights she is less active and sleeps through the night, thanks to a prescription for a psychotropic medication.

Pedro has lived in the family home for most of his entire life and serves as the primary caregiver for his mother. He identifies himself as a gay man who is a recovering alcoholic with frequent relapses. He is employed sporadically in maintenance but often loses jobs due to recurrent problems with addiction. Reportedly, Pedro relies on Anita's income for financial support.

Fifty-year-old Dellena is Anita's daughter and guardian of person and property. She resides in the same neighborhood as Anita and Pedro with her spouse, Carlos, and their teenage son, Jesus. Dellena is deeply involved in her faith community, the Catholic Church, and works part-time in the rectory office. Fifty-year-old Carlos, in school administration, struggles to accept the sexual orientation of Pedro and prefers that Pedro not interact with his son.

You have received a referral from the family physician for this case requesting a comprehensive family assessment and possible family therapy intervention for Pedro, Anita, and Dellena. Neighbors made a report of neglect to Dellena after witnessing Anita wandering around in the front yard in her pajamas on more than one occasion. Dellena then called her family physician for help. According to the referral, Pedro has reportedly left his mother alone for extended periods on several occasions. There have also been reports that he frequently brings home male companions who may stay for days or weeks in the home.

Conflict between Dellena and Pedro is high and exacerbated by the fact that Dellena had Pedro involuntarily committed for inpatient alcohol treatment earlier in the year. Dellena would like Anita to move into a life care residence, but Pedro is set against it. The Ortega family is Puerto Rican. Anita first moved to the United States in 1958 at the age of 37, accompanied by Dellena, who was 5, and Pedro, who was 13. Anita's spouse, Angel, came to the United States along with Anita and the children in 1958 and established himself in a successful career as a tailor but struggled with alcohol addiction most of his adult life. He died in a motor vehicle accident in 1983 after experiencing complications with cancer.