



MSUSM
DENVER

Master of Social Work
Department of Social Work

Summer/Fall 2024 Master of Social Work Program Case Study Requirements & Prompts

The Case Study should be completed by Advanced Standing applicants and must be written and saved to the applicant's computer as a **Word or PDF file** prior to being uploaded to the application checklist. You will upload the case study **after** you submit your MSU Denver graduate application. The case study is only a requirement for Advanced Standing applicants.

Case Study Requirements

The case study is an important part of your application because it reflects your ability to think critically about a situation and indicates your level of knowledge about social work. The case study is assessed based upon its level and quality of comprehensiveness, appropriateness, clarity, and academic writing.

Your essay must incorporate the following:

- not to exceed 4 double-spaced pages, using one of the following fonts: 11-point Arial, 11-point Calibri, 10-point Lucinda Sans Unicode, 12-point Times New Roman, 11-point Georgia, or 10-point Computer Modern;
- be written from the perspective of the hospital social worker;
- provide the Admissions Committee a clear picture of your ability to construct a cohesive, academic essay that demonstrates your readiness for graduate-level work;
- synthesize your foundational social work knowledge and combine academic sources to support your rationale (references are expected and [APA 7th Edition style](#) should be followed); and
- provide the information requested below in a well-formed essay (that is, incorporate the required information into an essay) and NOT in short answer form.

Case Study Prompts

1. Describe your understanding of the current situation and how things are the way they are.
2. How do you explain the problem, the dynamics, the strengths, and the challenges this family faces? Your explanation should be supported by scholarly sources.
3. Develop an action plan. Describe your action plan to address the issues presented.
4. What are the cultural considerations for working with this family? Support with scholarly sources.
5. How do the macro systems impact the way you serve this family? What changes would you like to see in these systems and how would you go about creating change?

Case

Ab is a 94-year-old Hmong female living alone in a house she owns in Denver. Her son, Teeb, and his partner, Zoov, check in on her each day, give her medications and prepare her meals for the day. Each week, they come in to clean the house. Ab has dementia and takes medications for mood, mental functioning, and high blood pressure.

Ab has had a series of physical injuries stemming from falls over the past few months. Her son, Teeb, entered the house two weeks ago and found Ab laying on the floor. She had fallen out of bed and sustained a hip injury making her unable to get up and call for help. She had been on the floor for 20 hours.

Teeb called for an ambulance and Ab was eventually placed in a rehabilitative facility. At the facility, Ab refused to take her medication which triggered dementia related aggression. She was transferred to a local hospital where she was treated and stabilized.

When Ab is on her medication, she is calm and receptive to treatment. When Teeb's partner, Zoov is around, he appears to have a calming influence on Ab and she more readily complies with taking medication.

At the hospital, Ab was assigned a room with a male nurse on duty. Ab indicated she needed to use the restroom; the nurse insisted, in accordance with hospital protocol due to the nature of Ab's injuries, on physically assisting her to the bathroom. Ab became agitated and struck the nurse several times with her cane when he refused to "leave her alone."

Ab stayed in the hospital for a few nights, was stabilized on her medication, and her medical team was ready to release her since she was able to walk 200 feet without assistance. The hospital staff told Teeb that although Ab is not fully recovered, she was fine to return home. You, the social worker, contacted the rehab facility and found out they would not accept Ab back due to her being labeled as aggressive.

Teeb and Zoov are concerned about Ab's ability to be at home alone. Ab is insisting that she go home and she refuses to go to a nursing home. Teeb and Zoov live in a small one-bedroom house. They both work full time, have a modest income that covers their expenses and are unable to provide the level of care that Ab needs.

Ab has stated several times that she does not want to be a burden. She has threatened suicide in the past, but she also states that she would never fully go through with it as she is Catholic and that is against her religious beliefs.