# POLICY FOR ADMISSION OF INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

**School of Social Work, McMaster University**

This admission process is designed in pursuit of the School’s commitment to enhancing the accessibility of the undergraduate social work program to First Nations, Métis and Inuit applicants.

**Admission Process and Criteria**

1. The School of Social Work will allot 5 places (out of 70) for Indigenous applicants. If the allotted places are not utilized, the remaining places revert to general applicant population.
2. Indigenous applicants may select the following Indigenous admission process, or may opt for the process utilized by the general applicant population.
3. Admission via the Indigenous application process is based equally on the following criteria:

**Graded Criteria:**

1. **Ability as measured by academic grades (33.33%)**
2. **Personal Assessment, measured by the Personal Statement (33.33%)**

Applicants have the opportunity to write the Personal Statement, or, present the Personal Statement orally.

Applicants who choose to write the Personal Statement: The written Statement will be reviewed by members of CISWA, and the grade submitted to Lorna. If the grade is less than the cutoff of 30/50, the applicant will have the opportunity to meet with members of CISWA. This meeting (approximately ½ hour) is an opportunity to expand on their Statement orally and in dialogue with CISWA members.

Applicants who choose to present their Personal Statement orally: The presentation of the oral Personal Statement will happen in a meeting with members of CISWA and be approximately 45 minutes. Following the oral presentation, members of CISWA may ask the applicant questions to support them to expand on their Personal Statement.

1. **A letter from a community member that addresses the applicant’s (1) readiness for the academic demands of the program, (2) alignment with values of social work and social justice, (3) involvement and identification with Indigenous community (historical, current, future). (33.33%)**

Given the colonial legacy of forced disconnection and dislocation from community, we do not require applicants to have an historical or current connection with Indigenous community. We seek the letter writer’s comments on the applicant’s Indigenous identity as they understand it, and their current and future intentions with respect to engagement with Indigenous communities.

**An applicant utilizing this Indigenous application process must achieve a minimum final score of 67 out of the possible 100 points on the 3 graded categories to be eligible for entry into the program.**

1. The Circle for Indigenous Social Work Action supports the recruitment and retention of Indigenous students and oversees this admissions process in accordance with its mandate (see School Organizational Structure and Operation for full description of its mandate).

Approved by Council of School of Social Work, February 1, 1993 McMaster University Senate, February 8, 1995

Revised November 1997 Revised March 2013

Revised June 2021

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