During my undergraduate study in the Bachelor of Social Work Program, I have developed a deeper career interest in the social work field. More specifically, I have decided that I would like to become a licensed clinical social worker. To be qualified for this position, a master’s degree in social work is required. As a result, I have chosen to further my education in the Master of Social Work Program and feel ecstatic about becoming a social worker upon completion of my studies.

My genuine interest in the field of social work stems from my background. Despite my attempt to live a normal and independent lifestyle, my life is not normal. At a young age, I experienced a life-altering event that changed my life completely. In 2004, I was in a severe car accident and suffered a spinal cord injury that left me wheelchair bound. Being an able-bodied person for nineteen years and then suddenly becoming disabled was a very difficult adjustment for me to grasp. When I came into realization that I may never walk again, I became chronically depressed. Fortunately it was not long after when I was able to overcome my depression and live life day by day. My network of family and friends was an important part of my recovery. Together, they helped me cope with my new life and the adjustments I had to make.

Unfortunately for some who experience such traumatic incidents, they do not have the support of family and friends to help them overcome their personal struggles. For these individuals, I would like to be the person to assist them in the recovery process. With my knowledge and background, I believe I can assist them in enhancing their well-being to function well in society. I also hope to serve as a role model to these individuals to show that it is possible to overcome obstacles. Moreover, as a clinical social worker, I can help provide mental health services to individuals and their families who are in need.

In particular, I believe I would enjoy working with the elderly and the disabled population who suffers from mental, behavioral, and emotional disorders. This choice is based on my experience with working and interacting with diverse individuals. However, I am a flexible person. I am willing to work with any population that I can be able to offer assistance. I believe I have an advantage in working with diverse individuals because of my background. I am a Vietnamese American. Being a minority, living in the United States, it is natural that I interact with people who are culturally and ethnically different from me. I have gained much knowledge about diversity through my education experiences with different individuals.

 In addition to being a minority, I am a disabled individual. I have first-hand experience with living with a disability. I am currently doing my practicum at the Independent Living Resource Center. This organization works with the disabled population to provide assistance to living independently despite their disability. I am a member in the Advocacy Concerns Team in Action at the center. Doing my practicum at the center has allowed me to work with other individuals who have a disability.

During my undergraduate study, I have broadened my knowledge in social work and learned things that I believe will assist me academically and professionally. From what I have learned, I believe professionalism is an important trait in the field of social work. A career in social work is both demanding and rewarding—it is not a career that can be taken lightly. As a professional, I believe we need to be careful with our words and actions; what we may say or do with our clients may have a great impact on them. As a social worker, we have the potential to help our clients in a positive way, but if we are not careful with our choices, there can be lingering negative effects. The NASW Code of Ethics is important for every social worker to abide by and practice in their field of work. The NASW Code of Ethics sets forth values, principles, and standards to help guide us to properly conduct ourselves as professional social workers.

Professional ethics are at the core of social work. As a social worker, it is our primary goal to provide service to people in need. With our knowledge, values, and skills, we can help people in need and address social problems. Policies are not permanent and can be amended. It is a social worker’s duty to challenge social injustice. We aim for social justice and to provide assistance on behalf of the vulnerable and oppressed individuals. Social workers need to learn how to respect the inherent dignity and worth of the person. Social workers also need to treat each of their clients in a caring and respectful manner. We need to learn to take heed and not allow ourselves to discriminate clients based upon our differences, culture, and ethnic diversity.

As a professional, social workers should also behave in a trustworthy manner. We need to act honest and be responsible to uphold our integrity to gain respect from others. Our actions do not only affect us but also the organizations that we are affiliated with. Competence is also very important for social workers to possess. We should not lie about our credentials and knowledge. If a client is in need of help that is not in our area of expertise then we should refer them to someone who can. Licensed social workers practicing in the field may be finished with their formal education, but their learning will still be ongoing. It is important for social workers to continue expanding their knowledge base to enhance their professional expertise.

In my part, I am a disabled individual. I have first-hand experience about the difficulties and barriers that the disadvantaged faces. I am a consumer that receives government assistance such as social security and disability benefits. I understand the importance of assistance to promote the well-being of an individual. I would like to continue on to the master’s level to expand my knowledge about the social work profession so that I can better advocate for the disadvantaged population.

I have tremendously enjoyed my experience in the social work undergraduate program. I want to continue my education in the Master of Social Work Program to expand my knowledge about social work. Competence is one of the professional values in the NASW Code of Ethics. As a social worker it is ordinary that I follow this guideline which mentions that social workers continually strive to increase their professional knowledge and skills and to apply them in practice.