

My journey into the field of addiction counseling is deeply personal and shaped by both my life experiences and my professional background. Growing up, I witnessed firsthand the devastating impact of addiction through my father, who struggled with alcoholism. His addiction not only affected his health, eventually leading to his death from liver cirrhosis, but it also deeply influenced our family dynamic. I saw how alcohol consumed his life and our family, leaving emotional scars that I carry with me to this day. His battle with addiction fueled my desire to understand addiction from both a personal and clinical perspective. It is this personal connection that drives my passion to work in the field of addiction, helping others break free from the cycle of substance use.

My father's struggle taught me that addiction is more than just a personal issue; it ripples outward, affecting loved ones and communities. Watching his decline instilled in me a sense of urgency to advocate for individuals facing similar battles. I want to help people find the strength and support they need to overcome addiction, but I also want to help families heal from the trauma that addiction can cause. This personal experience, combined with my professional background, has shaped my approach to addiction counseling, where I focus on empathy, understanding, and creating individualized paths to recovery.

I have dedicated over 30 years to working in executive roles that serve vulnerable populations, including homeless veterans, refugees, incarcerated veterans, and trauma survivors. My professional work in these areas has exposed me to the deep intersection between trauma and substance use, particularly with veterans who struggle with PTSD and addiction. I have seen how addiction becomes a coping mechanism for unresolved trauma, and I have made it my mission to help break that cycle. My personal connection to addiction and my professional experience in trauma-focused work have uniquely positioned me to understand the challenges that come with substance use disorders.

Currently, I am continuing my education to become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and specialize in addiction and trauma counseling. Despite balancing a demanding academic schedule, including a 4.0 GPA across multiple institutions and 18-hour course loads, I remain fully committed to advancing my skills in this field. I have passed the CLEP exams for various subjects like Chemistry, Biology, Algebra, and Spanish while simultaneously attending San Jacinto College, Houston Community College System, and Amarillo College maintaining a perfect GPA at all three. I am now pursuing my bachelor's degree in social work at the University of Texas at Arlington, and I plan to complete the program within a year. My academic dedication is a reflection of my commitment to making a real impact in the field of addiction counseling.

Beyond academics, my work in the field of social work has allowed me to serve those affected by addiction, whether through direct support, advocacy, or program development. I have worked closely with homeless veterans who face addiction, helping them access rehabilitation services, mental health support, and housing programs. I believe that addressing addiction requires a holistic approach—treating not only the substance use but also the underlying traumas and mental health struggles that often accompany it. My work is rooted in understanding the complex needs of those with addiction and creating tailored interventions that support long-term recovery.

Looking ahead, I hope to make a difference by integrating my personal understanding of addiction with my professional skills as a social worker. My goal is to develop programs that provide comprehensive care for individuals with addiction, ensuring they have access to mental health services, community support, and pathways to recovery. I also want to offer discernment counseling and mediation as part of addiction recovery, recognizing that family relationships often need healing alongside individual recovery. My long-term vision is to open my own practice, providing affordable mental health services to those in need, including individuals and families affected by addiction.

Addiction has touched my life in profound ways, and it has inspired me to dedicate my career to helping others find a path to recovery. I know firsthand the pain that addiction causes, but I also know the power of resilience, healing, and hope. By working in the field of addiction, I aim to be a source of support, guidance, and compassion for those who are struggling, just as I once wished my father had found. Through empathy, education, and professional dedication, I am committed to making a lasting impact in the lives of individuals and families facing the challenges of addiction.

Sincerely,
Zeljka "Zee" Mijic
(832) 622-4733
mijic.zeljka@gmail.com



UNIVERSITY OF
TEXAS
ARLINGTON

SCHOOL of SOCIAL WORK

Mark Frazier
University of Texas Arlington School of Social Work
School of Social Work and Smart Hospital (SWSH)
501. W Mitchell Street
Arlington, TX 76019

Dear Members of the Scholarship Committee,

It is with immense pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Ms. Zeljka Mijic, who is currently a student in the Bachelor of Social Work program at the University of Texas Arlington and is applying for an academic scholarship to support her studies in social work. Zeljka has been a student in my Social Work Practice course, which she excelled greatly and successfully completed the course. Having been acquainted with Zeljka's academic and personal qualities over this last semester and witnessing her profound dedication to the field of social work, I am confident in her ability to excel in her studies and make noteworthy contributions to the social work profession.

Zeljka has consistently demonstrated exceptional academic abilities, which are complemented by a genuine passion for social justice and community service. Her keen interest in understanding complex social issues is evident in her thoughtful participation in class discussions and her insightful class assignments and projects.

Moreover, Zeljka possesses a unique blend of empathy, resilience, and leadership qualities that are essential for a career in social work. Zeljka is, without doubt, a motivated, compassionate, and intellectually curious individual who seeks to make a positive impact in the field of social work. Zeljka's academic background, combined with her practical experience and personal qualities, make her an exceptional candidate deserving of this scholarship. Furthermore, this scholarship will provide her with necessary financial support to further her education and pursue her goals of becoming a skilled and compassionate social worker.

I wholeheartedly support Zeljka's application and believe that she embodies the qualities and values that this scholarship aims to support. She is a dedicated, talented, and driven individual who will undoubtedly make a meaningful impact in the field of social work.

Sincerely,

Mark Frazier

Mark Frazier, MSW, DSW Candidate
Assistant Professor of Practice
School of Social Work
The University of Texas Arlington
501. W Mitchell Street
Arlington, TX 76019

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

Unofficial Transcript

Name: Zeljka Mijic
Student ID: 1002232624

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Institution Info: THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON
Birthdate: 06/26/1977
Print Date: 08/15/2024
Reading: Complete 1001394 17-JAN-2024
Math: Complete 1001394 31-JAN-2024
Writing: Complete 1001394 17-JAN-2024
TEC 51.907 Undergraduate Course Drop Counter - 0

Transfer Credits

Transfer Credit from Houston Community College			
Applied Toward Undergraduate Program			
Incoming Course			
PSYC	2314	Human Grwth/Dev	3.000 TA 2024 SUMR SEM
Transferred to Term 2024 Summer as			
PSYTRAN	2000	Developmental Psychology	3.000 TA
Incoming Course			
PSYC	2306	Human Sexuality	3.000 TA 2024 SPR SEM
Transferred to Term 2024 Summer as			
BIOL	2317	HUMAN SEXUALITY	3.000 TA
Incoming Course			
PSYC	2301	Intro To Psy	3.000 TA 2024 SPR SEM
Transferred to Term 2024 Summer as			
PSYC	1315	INTRO TO PSYCHOLOGY	3.000 TA
Incoming Course			
PHIL	1301	Intro To Phil	3.000 TA 2024 SPR SEM
Transferred to Term 2024 Summer as			
PHIL	2300	INTRO TO PHIL	3.000 TA
Incoming Course			
INRW	0300	Integrated Read/Write for Engl	3.000 TNC 2023 FALL SEM
Transferred to Term 2024 Summer as			
DEVTRAN	1000	Developmental Transfer	0.000 TNC
Incoming Course			
HIST	1302	Hist Of U.S.	3.000 TA 2023 FALL SEM
Transferred to Term 2024 Summer as			
HIST	1302	U.S. HISTORY SINCE 1865	3.000 TA
Incoming Course			
HIST	1301	Hist Of U.S.	3.000 TA 2023 FALL SEM
Transferred to Term 2024 Summer as			
HIST	1301	U.S. HISTORY TO 1865	3.000 TA
Incoming Course			
GOVT	2306	State Local Govt	3.000 TA 2024 SPR SEM
Transferred to Term 2024 Summer as			
POLS	2312	STATE & LOCAL GOVT	3.000 TA
Incoming Course			
GOVT	2305	American Federal Govt	3.000 TA 2023 FALL SEM
Transferred to Term 2024 Summer as			
POLS	2311	GOVT OF U S	3.000 TA
Incoming Course			
ENGL	1301	Expos Writing	3.000 TA 2023 FALL SEM
Transferred to Term 2024 Summer as			
ENGL	1301	RHETORIC AND COMPOSITION I	3.000 TA
Incoming Course			
EDUC	1300	Learning Framew	3.000 TA 2023 FALL SEM
Transferred to Term 2024 Summer as			
UNIV	1101	CAREER PREP & STUDENT SUCCESS	1.000 TA
TRAN	1000	Transfer	2.000 TA
Rejected Credits			
PSYC	2314	Human Grwth/Dev	3.000 TD 2024 SPR SEM

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

Unofficial Transcript

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Name: **Zeljka Mijic**

Student ID: **1002232624**

Transfer Credit from San Jacinto College Central District*

Applied Toward Undergraduate Program

Incoming Course

SPCH 1315 Public Speaking 3.000 TA 2023 FALL SEM

Transferred to Term 2024 Summer as

COMS 1301 FUNDAMENTALS PUBLIC SPEAKING 3.000 TA

Incoming Course

MATH 1314 College Alg 3.000 TP 2023 FALL SEM

Transferred to Term 2024 Summer as

MATH 1302 COLLEGE ALGEBRA 3.000 TP

Incoming Course

CHEM 1312 Gen Chem II 3.000 TP 2023 FALL SEM

Transferred to Term 2024 Summer as

CHEMTRAN 1000 Chemistry Transfer 3.000 TP

Incoming Course

CHEM 1311 Gen Chem I 3.000 TP 2023 FALL SEM

Transferred to Term 2024 Summer as

CHEMTRAN 1000 Chemistry Transfer 3.000 TP

Incoming Course

BIOL 1306 Biology for Science Majors I 3.000 TP 2023 FALL SEM

Transferred to Term 2024 Summer as

BIOLTRAN 1000 Biology Transfer 3.000 TP

Incoming Course

GENE 1307 Biology for Science Mjrs I 3.000 TP 2023 FALL SEM

Transferred to Term 2024 Summer as

SCIETRAN 1000 Science (General) Transfer 3.000 TP

Incoming Course

DRAM 2366 Motion Pict Art 3.000 TA 2024 SPR SEM

Transferred to Term 2024 Summer as

THEATRAN 2000 Theatre Arts Transfer 3.000 TA

Incoming Course

ENGL 1302 Argu Writing 3.000 TA 2024 SPR SEM

Transferred to Term 2024 Summer as

ENGL 1302 RHETORIC AND COMPOSITION II 3.000 TA

Incoming Course

MATH 1342 Elem Stats 3.000 TA 2024 SPR SEM

Transferred to Term 2024 Summer as

MATH 1308 ELEM STATISTICAL ANALYSIS 3.000 TA

Transfer Credit from Amarillo College

Applied Toward Undergraduate Program

Incoming Course

SOCW 2361 Intro to Social Work 3.000 TA 2024 SPR SEM

Transferred to Term 2024 Summer as

SOCW 2361 INTRO SOC WORK 3.000 TA

Academic Program History

Program: Undergraduate

01/04/2024: Applicant

01/04/2024: Social Work - On-Line Intended

Beginning of Undergraduate Record

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

Unofficial Transcript

Name: **Zeljka Mijic**
 Student ID: **1002232624**

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2024 Sum

<u>Course</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Attempted</u>	<u>Earned</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Points</u>
SOCW 3300	SOCIAL WORK PROFESSIONALISM	3.000	3.000	A	12.000
SOCW 3301	THEORIES OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR	3.000	3.000	A	12.000
SOCW 3303	SW POL & SERV	3.000	3.000	A	12.000
SOCW 3305	SW PRACTICE I	3.000	3.000	A	12.000
SOCW 3307	DIVERSE POPULATIONS	3.000	3.000	A	12.000
SOCW 4344	HEALTH ACCESS	3.000	3.000	A	12.000

		<u>Attempted</u>	<u>Earned</u>	<u>GPA Units</u>	<u>Points</u>
Term GPA	4.000 Term Totals	18.000	18.000	18.000	72.000
Cum GPA	4.000 Cum Totals	18.000	18.000	18.000	72.000

Academic Standing Effective 08/14/2024: Good Standing

2024 Fall

<u>Course</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Attempted</u>	<u>Earned</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Points</u>
SOCW 3306	SW PRACTIC III	3.000	0.000		0.000
SOCW 3308	SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH	3.000	0.000		0.000
SOCW 3309	SW PRACTIC II	3.000	0.000		0.000
SOCW 3312	DISABILITY & SOCIAL WORK	3.000	0.000		0.000
SOCW 3315	INTRO TO SUD	3.000	0.000		0.000
SOCW 4335	AGING IN AMERICAN SOCIETY	3.000	0.000		0.000

		<u>Attempted</u>	<u>Earned</u>	<u>GPA Units</u>	<u>Points</u>
Term GPA	0.000 Term Totals	18.000	0.000	18.000	0.000
Cum GPA	4.000 Cum Totals	36.000	18.000	18.000	72.000
Undergraduate Career Totals					
Cum GPA:	4.000 Cum Totals	36.000	18.000	18.000	72.000

Non-Course Milestones

Program: Undergraduate
 UTA Core Complete
 Status: Completed
 Date Completed: 06/14/2024

End of Unofficial Transcript



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