

Professional Practice Doctoral Program Accreditation Pilot Eligibility Standards

Council on Social Work Education
Commission on Accreditation

Purpose: Eligibility applications include a series of eligibility standards which require the program to demonstrate that its host institution can and will support and sustain a social work program.

The eligibility standards, like any other resources created for the professional practice doctoral program accreditation pilot are subject to change. This document is being provided publicly for informational purposes only.

Information regarding the professional practice doctoral program pilot can be found [here](#). Questions concerning the eligibility standards, or the piloting of the accreditation of professional practice doctoral programs in general, may be directed to the practicedoc@cswe.org.

Eligibility Standard 1: The president/chancellor of the institution authorizes the Commission on Accreditation's review of the social work program, including conducting commission visits.

Eligibility Standard 2: The program is within an educational institution recognized by a regional accrediting body approved by the [Commission on Higher Education Accreditation \(CHEA\)](#).

Eligibility Standard 3: The institution must be legally organized and authorized to operate as a post-secondary educational institution under the laws of the relevant state, district, or territory. The program has been approved by the appropriate higher education authorities.

Eligibility Standard 4: The institution complies with requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Eligibility Standard 5: The institution has a written affirmative action plan and procedures or a stated policy against discrimination based on race, color, religion, creed, gender, ethnic or national origin, disability, or age.

Eligibility Standard 6: The institution has appointed a program director (per AS 3.11 and AS 3.12, [Accreditation Standards for Professional Practice Doctoral Programs in Social Work](#)), who has demonstrated leadership ability through teaching, scholarship, curriculum development, administrative experience, and other academic and professional activities in social work. The program documents that the professional doctoral program director has a doctoral degree, preferably in social work, and a master's degree in social work from a CSWE-accredited program with a minimum of 3 years of practice experience beyond the master's degree in social work. Baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral programs must identify separate program directors.

Eligibility Standard 7: The institution identifies and describes the social work program in its catalog, similar publication, or website. Program mission and course offerings are specified.

Eligibility Standard 8: The educational institution provides its organizational chart to document the position of the social work program in the governance structure of the institution and to demonstrate its position relative to other professional education programs offered by the institution.

Eligibility Standard 9: The institutional transcript for students who complete the accredited social work program confirms that the social work program was completed, and a doctoral degree was awarded.

Eligibility Standard 10: The program describes admissions criteria consistent with AS 3.0.2 and AS 3.0.3 in [*Accreditation Standards for Professional Practice Doctoral Programs in Social Work*](#) and specifies that students must have an earned master's degree in social work from a CSWE-accredited program and a minimum of three-year's post-master's social work degree practice experience.

Eligibility Standard 11: The program does not grant social work course credit for life experience or previous work experience.

Eligibility Standard 12: The institution documents sufficient and firm institutional supports to create, build, and maintain the social work education program.