



Post-master's Social Work Fellowship Accreditation Pilot Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

CSWE's Commission on Accreditation (COA) and the Fellowship Review Committee (FRC) are currently piloting the accreditation of post-master's fellowship accreditation programs.

Note: All questions regarding the pilot should be directed to fellowship@cswe.org

1. Does CSWE have a list of accredited social work fellowship programs?

Yes. However, because the accreditation of post-master's social work fellowship programs is currently being piloted, and only a limited number of programs were selected to participate in the pilot, many quality post-master's social work fellowship programs are in existence that have not yet had an opportunity to seek accreditation.

In addition, only as the programs in the pilot complete the accreditation process, and are granted initial accreditation, are they listed on our [directory](#).

2. What are post-master's social work fellowship programs?

A social work fellowship is a post-master's practice-based training program centered on advanced training within a defined area of practice. Fellowship programs offer trainees direct practice experiences, didactic/structured learning, supervision, and other activities (teaching, research, educational dissemination).

Any questions regarding a specific fellowship program's offerings should be directed at the fellowship program, directly.

3. How many programs are participating in the pilot?

A total of 4 programs are participating in the pilot. This limited caseload of programs allows COA, FRC, and CSWE staff to intentionally review each stage in the process and make adjustments, as needed.

4. Can I find out which programs have been selected to participate in the pilot?

The list of selected programs will be kept confidential throughout the review process. Identifying information will be made public once the pilot is complete or an initial accreditation decision is made.

For a list of accredited post-master's fellowship programs, please visit our [directory](#).

5. When will additional programs be able to seek accreditation?

COA, FRC, and CSWE staff are currently evaluating the pilot findings and the capacity to expand the pilot initiative to include additional programs. As part of this process, we have learned that our current minimal requirements (4 eligibility requirements and 4 program criteria) are insufficient and that formal accreditation standards are warranted.

A first draft of *Post-Master's Fellowship Accreditation Standards*, developed by CSWE staff and the Fellowship Review Committee (FRC), was presented to the Commission on Accreditation (COA) during their February 2021 meeting. Draft 2 is currently in development.

Once standards have been formally approved and adopted, and processes and procedures have been updated to reflect the standards, additional programs will be able to undergo review.

If you are interested in seeking accreditation, [please let us know](#). Programs are notified as updates are available.

6. If I graduate from a fellowship program that is granted accreditation in the future, can I be considered to be a graduate of an accredited program?

The accreditation status obtained at initial accreditation only covers the components that were reviewed during the accreditation review process. Therefore, the accredited status only applies to the cohort that was enrolled at the time the program's site visit was conducted.

Accreditation status will not be retroactively effective to previous trainees and curricula.

7. What is required in order for me to apply to a fellowship program?

Each program selects and implements their own admissions criteria. At a minimum, the *Post-Master's Fellowship Accreditation Standards*, requires that the fellowship program only admit trainees that have earned a master's degree in social work from a CSWE-accredited program¹.

Any questions regarding a specific fellowship program's admission criteria should be directed at the fellowship program, directly.

¹ This includes individuals whose degree was recognized as equivalent through CSWE's [International Social Work Degree Recognition and Evaluation Service \(ISWDRES\)](#) and graduates from Canadian social work programs accredited by CASWE covered by the [memorandum of understanding between CSWE and CASWE](#).

8. I have questions regarding licensure. Who can I speak to at CSWE?

CSWE staff do not discuss licensing. Some fellowship programs, at their discretion, may provide supervision hours that can be counted towards licensure. Any questions regarding a specific fellowship program's offerings should be directed at the fellowship program, directly.

Also, professional social work licensure post-degree is under the authority of a designated board within each individual state government. Your state government is responsible for regulating licensure and setting criteria required to become a licensed professional social worker. Requirements may differ by state. Contact information for individual state licensing boards can be found on the [Association of Social Work Boards \(ASWB\) website](#) or through an internet search for a licensing board for a particular state. Questions regarding licensure and professional practice should be directed to the board in your state. Questions regarding the national social work licensing exams should be directed to the ASWB, the body that publishes and administers the exams.