

PRE-CANDIDACY MONTHLY WORKSHOP WITH ANNA HOLSTER, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF ACCREDITATION OPERATIONS & TECHNOLOGY

TOPIC 5: FEBRUARY 2022
COMMISSIONER VISITS

Kat Gibson-Ledl Associate Director of Accreditation Services

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Department Office Manager &
Assistant to ED

Anna Holster
Associate Director of
Accreditation Operations &
Technology

Connie Adams Accreditation Specialist

Katie Benson Accreditation Specialist

Karen Chapman Accreditation Specialist

Marilyn Gentner Accreditation Specialist

Michael Leff Accreditation Specialist

Alyson Durant Volunteer Coordinator

Accreditation Volunteers (Commissioners & Site Visitors)

Department of Social Work Accreditation (DOSWA)

Meet the accreditation team!

Chair

COA Roster (2021-2022)



Deana F. Morrow, PhD, LICSW, ACSW

Director and Professor

West Virginia University



George Ashley, PhD, LMSW

Professor

Oakwood University



Needha Boutté-Queen, PhD

Dean

Texas Southern University



Christina Bruhn, PhD, LCSW

Associate Professor

Aurora University



Terry Cluse-Tolar, PhD

Professor and Chair

Ohio University



Michael R. Daley, PhD, MSW

Department Chair & Professor

Texas A&M University-Central Texas



Kim S. Downing, PhD, LCSW, ACSW

Professor and Director of the Social Work Program

Elizabeth City State University

Vice Chair



Francis Xavier Roque Origanti, PhD

Associate Dean

Sacred Heart University



Humberto E. Fabelo, PhD, LCSW

Associate Professor

Virginia Commonwealth University



Debra Fromm Faria.

LCSW

Clinical Associate Professor and MSW Field Coordinator

College at Brockport, State University of New York



Thomas K. Gregoire, PhD, MSW

Dean

Ohio State University

Maria A. Gurrola, MSW, PhD

Professor

California State University, Monterey
Bay







Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

University of Denver



<u>Daria V. Hanssen, PhD,</u> LCSW-R

BSW Program Director and Associate Professor

Marist College



William A. Heiss, MSSW

Assistant Director Emeritus

University of Wisconsin-Madison



Lihua Huang, MSW, PhD

Associate Professor

Grand Valley State University

COA Roster (2021-22) (continued)



Ji Seon Lee, PhD, MSSW, MPA

Associate Dean of Academic Affairs

Fordham University



Randy H. Magen, PhD

Professor

Boise State University



Isiah Marshall, Jr., PhD, MSW

Associate Professor and Associate Dean

Jackson State University



Cheryl A. McAuliffe PhD, LMSW

Director of Social Work

Grand Canyon University



Christopher G. Mitchell, PhD, LCSW

Associate Professor

University of Illinois Chicago



Lisa B. Moon, PhD, LCSW

Dean

Walden University



Megan H. Morrissey. MSW. PhD

Associate Director, School of Social Work / Director, MSW Program

University of Minnesota -Twin Cities



<u>Larry P. Ortiz, MSW,</u> PhD

Professor, Social Work & Social Ecology / Director, Social Policy & Social Research PhD Program

Loma Linda University



Helen E. Petracchi, PhD, MSSW

Associate Professor and Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

University of Pittsburgh



Clifford J.
Rosenbohm, PhD,
LCSW, ACSW

MSW Program Coordinator, Professor

King University



Thomas C. Walsh, MSW, PhD

rofessor / Associate Dean & MSW Program Director

Boston College



Ruth Weinzettle, PhD, LCSW-BACS

Department Head & Professor

Northwestern State University of Louisiana



Shelly A. Wiechelt, MSW, PhD

Chair & Associate Dean

University of Maryland, Baltimore County



James Herbert Williams, PhD, MSW, MPA

Arizona Centennial Professor of Social Welfare Services

Arizona State University

MAJOR CANDIDACY DUE DATES

(see Timetables for all due dates: https://www.cswe.org/Accreditation/Accreditation-Process)

Candidacy Eligibility Application	Draft Benchmark I (BMI) to CSWE	Approval of Draft Benchmark I (BMI) by CSWE and Assignment to Agenda	Commissioner Site Visit Dates (3 are scheduled)	COA Review
Submitted to Associate Director (ADOT) on rolling basis throughout the year.	Submitted to Associate Director (ADOT) At least 1 round of feedback before approval. Allow 2-4 weeks for feedback.	Draft BMI approved by Associate Director (ADOT), granting Pre-Candidacy status. Associate Director (ADOT) assigns program to Accreditation Specialist. First 10 Draft BMI documents approved by December 1, 2022, are placed on October 2023 Candidacy agenda. Subsequently approved programs placed on February 2024 agenda.	Visit 1: March 1-May 31, 2023 Visit 2: March 1-May 31, 2024 Visit 3: March 1-May 31, 2025 E-mail full BMI to commissioner and specialist one month prior to CV visit. Visit scheduled directly with visitor. Confirm visit date once scheduled at https://forms.office.com/r/FJNJEiZbAL .	 Candidacy Status Review–Oct 2023 Year 2 Candidacy Review–Oct 2024 Initial Accreditation–Oct 2025 Covers students admitted to social work program in fall 2023 or later, regardless of graduation date.
Submitted to Associate Director (ADOT) of on rolling basis throughout the year.	Submitted to Associate Director (ADOT) At least 1 round of feedback before approval. Allow 2-4 weeks for feedback.	Draft BMI approved by Associate Director (ADOT), granting Pre-Candidacy status. Associate Director (ADOT) assigns program to Accreditation Specialist. First 10 Draft BMI documents approved by June 1, 2023, are placed on February 2024 Candidacy agenda. Subsequently approved programs placed on June 2024 agenda.	 Visit 1: Sept 1-Nov 15, 2023 Visit 2: Sept 1-Nov 15, 2024 Visit 3: Sept 1-Nov 15, 2025 E-mail full BMI to commissioner and specialist one month prior to CV visit. Visit scheduled directly with visitor. Confirm visit date once scheduled at https://forms.office.com/r/FJNJEiZbAL. 	 Candidacy Status Review–Feb 2024 Year 2 Candidacy Review–Feb 2025 Initial Accreditation–Feb 2026 Covers students admitted to social work program in fall 2023 or later, regardless of graduation date.
Submitted to Associate Director (ADOT) on rolling basis throughout the year.	Submitted to Associate Director (ADOT) At least 1 round of feedback before approval. Allow 2-4 weeks for feedback.	Draft BMI approved by Associate Director (ADOT), granting Pre-Candidacy status. Associate Director (ADOT) assigns program to Accreditation Specialist. First 10 Draft BMI documents approved by September 1, 2023, are placed on June 2024 Candidacy agenda. Subsequently approved programs placed on October 2024 agenda.	 Visit 1: Dec 1, 2023-Feb 28, 2024 Visit 2: Dec 1, 2024-Feb 29, 2025 Visit 3: Dec 1, 2025-Feb 28, 2026 E-mail full BMI to commissioner and specialist one month prior to CV visit. Visit scheduled directly with visitor. Confirm visit date once scheduled at https://forms.office.com/r/FJNJEiZbAL. 	 Candidacy Status Review–June 2024 Year 2 Candidacy Review–June 2025 Initial Accreditation–June 2026 Covers students admitted to social work program in fall 2023 or later, regardless of graduation date.

Commissioner Visits



Commission on Accreditation (COA)

- Comprised of 30 commissioners
- Commissioners are appointed for up to two (2) consecutive 3-year terms
- A diverse group of commissioners is selected to represent a range of program levels, sizes, locations, and structures
- Names and credentials of all commissioners are listed on the <u>CSWE website</u>

Commission on Accreditation (COA)

- Minimum of five (5) years of teaching experience
- Experienced site visitors prior to serving on COA
- All commissioners conducted at least three site visits prior to appointment to COA
- Faculty members at CSWE-accredited social work programs
- Current CSWE members

Role of Commission on Accreditation (COA)

- COA (Commission on Accreditation) and COEP (Commission on Educational Policy) develop a new EPAS every seven years with feedback from program members and constituents
- COA has sole responsibility for determining whether a program complies with accreditation standards
- Commissioners are responsible for both reading program documents and visiting programs

Role of Commission Visitor

- All visits conducted by current commissioners and commissioners who rotated off COA within past 2 years
- Commissioners are responsible for visiting programs in Candidacy and serve as both reviewer (approval standards) and consultant (draft standards) to programs during those visits
- Each program receives a total of three (3) different commissioner visitors (one (1) per year)
- Different commissioner will visit each year

Confidentiality

- Commissioner visitors will never serve as readers for the programs they previously visited
- The visitor will provide extensive consultation during the visit, but will have no authority to vote on the program's final decision when reviewed by COA
- Commissioners treat benchmark materials as confidential in their discussions and decision-making

Approval Standards

- Visitor will review the approval standards and identify any concerns in Commissioner Visit Report
- COA decision made on the basis of approval standards <u>only</u>
 - Visitor does <u>not</u> make a decision nor determine compliance
- Any concerns with approval standards will be clearly outlined during the visit and the program will be instructed to respond in program response
- COA makes final decision on compliance with approval standards

Draft Standards

- Visitor will also review all draft standards and provide consultation and feedback for further development
- This is an opportunity to receive consultation on draft standards while they are still in the developmental stage and don't yet require approval
 - Come prepared with developmental and consultative questions!

Draft Standards (continued)

- While the decisions is not based on the draft standards, the more final they are and the more prepared you are with questions, the better consultation you will receive at the visit
- Accreditation staff will not review draft standards again, so this is your last opportunity for feedback on draft standards
- Take advantage of this excellent consultative resource before these standards require approval!

Arranging Commission Visit

- Commissioner visitor assignment made by Associate Director of Accreditation Operations & Technology
- CSWE's Volunteer Coordinator will notify the program and visitor of the assignment
 - Assignment is made by June for fall visits; by September for winter visits; and by December for spring visits

Arranging Commission Visit (continued)

- Once the program receives the visitor's name, establish communication promptly to agree upon a visit date
- ► Feel free to reach out to the commissioner visitor, who will be cc'ed on the notification email
 - No need to wait for visitor to reach out to program
- Helpful to exchange cell phone numbers for emergency communication during the visit
- Once a date has been established, program must log visit date at https://forms.office.com/r/FJNJEiZbAL.

Arranging Commission Visit

- In-person visits should be conducted over the course of one full day
- Virtual visits may be held on one full day or spread out between two consecutive half-days
- Program director (and/or primary contact, if different people) responsible for setting the commissioner visit agenda with input from commissioner visitor
- Anyone wishing to meet with visitor must be approved by program director and/or primary contact
- Be sure to consult with your president/chancellor or designee before scheduling date to ensure they will be available for opening meeting with commissioner visitor

Expenses and Reimbursement

- Program must pre-pay flight and hotel
- Hotel stay must be charged to the program's credit card and not require the commissioner visitor to provide a credit card for anything other than incidentals
- Consult visitor about the most convenient airport, airline, and flight times
- Program must either book flight directly for visitor or provide payment information for visitor to book (e.g.: Egencia login)
 - Request visitor's frequent flier number or birthdate if needed to book the flight
- Programs advised to purchase <u>refundable and transferrable</u> transportation and accommodations to avoid incurring fees in the event of visit cancellation or delay

Expenses and Reimbursement

- Arrange ground transportation to/from airport and hotel in advance
- Faculty pick-up to/from airport and hotel is preferred, but ask visitor if they have other preferences
- Program must reimburse transportation to/from visitor's home airport, transportation to/from local hotel/airport (if not provided directly), meals on both visit day and travel days, and appropriate incidentals
- Communicate in advance reimbursement limits, expectations, per diem, and other logistics
- ▶ Please visit <u>Reimbursement Policy</u> for more information

Document Submission Before Visit

- ▶ 30 days before the visit, email to both visitor <u>and</u> accreditation specialist the same Benchmark I documents you previously submitted in Draft to Associate Director (ADOT)
 - This document may be updated with additional information, particularly as you develop draft standards, but should not be substantially reformatted
- If documents aren't received by both the visitor and specialist 30 days before the visit, visit may be rescheduled to a later date!

Document Submission Before Visit

- Program must submit full Benchmark I document to both commissioner visitor and accreditation specialist
 - Benchmark I Review Brief (Word version)
 - Be sure to submit a version that <u>does not</u> include ADOT feedback from *Draft Benchmark I* review
 - Volume I narrative & supplemental documents (one file only; Word or searchable PDF)
 - ► Volume II syllabi for all courses in curriculum matrix (one file only; Word or searchable PDF)
 - ► Volume III student handbook & field manual (one file only; Word or searchable PDF)

Format of Commissioner Visits

- All first and third commissioner visits conducted after September 1, 2022, are to be held in person for programs with a campus-based program option (regardless of whether they also have an online program option)
- All first and third commissioner visits conducted after September 1, 2022, are to be held virtually for online-only programs that do not have a campus-based program option
 - These programs have the option of requesting an in-person visit if they prefer
- ► All second commissioner visits are to be held virtually
- All visits conducted through May 31 may be conducted virtually or in-person based on program and visitor preference and comfort
- All other aspects of visit remain the same whether visit is conducted in-person or virtually

Virtual Visits

- The process & expectations of all parties during a virtual visit are the same to an in-person visit
- ► The visit must occur in real-time, and via a platform that will allow for engaged audio and visual participation for all parties
- Platform of visits is program's responsibility
- Online program options will be expected to provide demonstration of platforms used for teaching, meetings, student engagement, and all other activities in with faculty, staff, and students engage
- Virtual visits will occur in one full day OR over two consecutive halfdays
- Should a technology failure occur that impairs the visitor from fulfilling their duties, the visit may be rescheduled

Commissioner Visit Schedule

- ► Visit should include meetings with:
 - President, Chancellor, or Designee (Opening meeting)
 - Faculty
 - Students
 - Field instructors, field personnel, any other constituent groups
 - Exit meeting with program director/primary contact and anyone the program director/primary contact chooses to invite
- Visit should also include a break before exit interview for visitor to prepare commissioner visit report draft

Sample Commissioner Visit Schedule

Sample Commission Visit Schedule (Optional)

This template is <u>optional</u> templates for planning and scheduling purposes; <u>not</u> a required format. Programs are encouraged to craft an agenda in collaboration with the commission visitor.

Actual commission visit agendas, including constituencies/stakeholder groups involved, vary according to the clarifications requested by the commission visitor after reviewing the program's benchmark documents.

Always check the website for the most current forms and accreditation updates!



Additional Site Visit Resources available at https://www.cswe.org/Accreditation/Accreditation-Process/Site-Visit-Information

Exit Interview

- Be sure to provide plenty of time at the conclusion of the visit for an exit meeting
- Please provide a break before the exit meeting to provide time for the commissioner visitor to review notes and prepare the draft presentation of the report.
- Exit meeting should include the program director and/or primary contact and can also include any other individuals they wish to include in the meeting

Exit Interview

- Commissioner visitor will verbally present a draft of what will be included in the commissioner visit report
- The official commissioner visit report will be submitted two weeks later and should be consistent with what is presented in the exit meeting

Commissioner Visit Report

- Commissioner visitor completes report using the review brief submitted by the program
 - ▶ Benchmark 1 Review Brief;
 - Benchmark 2 Review Brief; or
 - Initial Accreditation Review Brief
 - Downloadable from https://www.cswe.org/Accreditation/Accreditation-Process > Candidacy tab > Select corresponding BM1, BM2, or Initial sub-tab
- The commissioner visitor identifies concerns, but does not make a decision nor determine compliance as that authority rests with the COA readers

Commissioner Visit Report

- Commissioner visit report will be submitted to specialist and forwarded to program two weeks after visit and should be consistent with what is presented in the exit meeting
- While visitor may provide feedback on draft standards, commissioner visit report and program response will be based solely on approval standards
- Guidance on draft standards is for further development as program prepares for its next benchmark

Program Response

- Program response due two weeks after receipt of commissioner visit report
- Programs should respond to every concern identified by visitor related to approval standards
- Do not respond to any feedback on draft standards
- ▶ If supplemental documents or revisions are presented to visitor, be sure to incorporate them into program response
- Program response should identify each standard of concern and a narrative/supplemental document response to each standard identified in commissioner visit report
- Do not resubmit full benchmark document, but do make any relevant updates to running document for next Benchmark

Final COA Decision

- COA decision will be made at the meeting based on review by two readers of:
 - Full Benchmark document
 - Commissioner visit report
 - Program response
- Voted on by full COA
 - Commissioner visitor abstains from voting on final program decision
- Deferment or other Candidacy decisions can be based on any approval standards, even if they were not identified as concern by commissioner visitor
 - Occasionally, readers may identify a concern that was missed by the commissioner visitor

Additional Resources



Making Changes While in Candidacy

- Permitted to make changes and updates to policies, procedures, curriculum, and assessment plan at any point in the Candidacy process, as long as they remain compliant with the standards
- Expected to continuously update evolving standards, such as faculty, budget, etc.
- All standards are reviewed at the Initial Accreditation stage for compliance, so programs should be mindful of how changes impact standards that have already been approved
- Provide personnel updates via <u>database audit form</u> as they occur

VOLUME ONE TEMPLATES

- BM1 Volume 1 Template (2015 EPAS)
- BM2 Volume 1 Template (2015 EPAS)
- Initial Accreditation Volume I Template (2015 EPAS)

These are <u>optional</u> templates for planning and writing purposes; <u>not</u> a required format. Programs are encouraged to craft a benchmark/self-study document that clearly responds to the EPAS.

The purpose of these templates are to assist programs with the structuring/outlining the document; <u>not</u> to provide content. Programs are solely responsible for documenting compliance with the EPAS.

Always check the website for the most current forms and accreditation updates!



Program Options

- Defined on page 21 of the EPAS Glossary as:
 - "Various structured pathways to degree completion by which social work programs are delivered including specific methods and locations such as on campus, off campus, and virtual instruction."
- Includes: main campus, branch campus, satellite site, online program, etc.; each program option type is defined in policy 1.2.4 of the EPAS Handbook
- Program options are <u>not</u> plans of study such as advanced standing, 16-month, 24-months, part-time, etc.
- A substantive change report is required when adding a new program option per policy 1.2.4 in the EPAS Handbook
- ▶ **Self-study:** Each program option should be explicitly addressed in response to each standard.

CSWE Accreditation Web Resources

- Candidacy Documents https://www.cswe.org/Accreditation/Accreditation-Process (select Candidacy)
 - Preparation -> formatting requirements, Benchmark Grid, preparatory resources
 - $_{\circ}$ Benchmark 1/2/3 \rightarrow all required forms submitted at each stage
 - Timetables -> timetables for the Candidacy process
 - Resources -> sample format for curriculum matrices and assessment plan
- Accreditation PowerPoints
 - Topics: 2015 EPAS Overview, Assessment, Candidacy, Frequently Cited Standards, Writing an Accreditation Document
- ► 2015 EPAS & Glossary
- 2015 EPAS Interpretation Guide
- ► 2015 EPAS Handbook
- Formatting & Submission Requirements
- Directory of Accredited Programs
- COA Decisions



Always check the website for the most current forms and accreditation updates!

Statement for Programs in Pre-Candidacy Per policy 1.1.4 in to Post on their Web Sites the EPAS Handbook

- [Program] is currently in Pre-Candidacy for Accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education's Commission on Accreditation.
- Pre-Candidacy for a baccalaureate or master's social work program by the Council on Social Work Education's Commission on Accreditation indicates that it has submitted an application to be reviewed for Candidacy and had its Benchmark I approved in draft form to move forward with Candidacy review within one year. A program that has attained Pre-Candidacy has not yet been reviewed by the Commission on Accreditation or been verified to be in compliance with the Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards.
- Students who enter programs in Pre-Candidacy that attain Candidacy in the academic year in which
 they begin their program of study will be retroactively recognized as having graduated from a CSWEaccredited program once the program attains Initial Accreditation. The Candidacy process is typically a
 three-year process and there is no guarantee that a program in Pre-Candidacy will eventually attain
 Candidacy or Initial Accreditation.
- Candidacy by the Council on Social Work Education's Commission on Accreditation applies to all
 locations and delivery methods of an accredited program. Accreditation provides reasonable assurance
 about the quality of the program and the competence of students graduating from the program.
- For more information about social work accreditation, you may contact Accreditation.

Statement for Programs in Candidacy to Post on their Web Sites the **EPAS** Handbook

[Program] has achieved Candidacy for Accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education's Commission on Accreditation.

Per policy 1.1.3 in

- Candidacy for a baccalaureate or master's social work program by the Council on Social Work Education's Commission on Accreditation indicates that it has made progress toward meeting criteria for the assessment of program quality evaluated through a peer review process. A program that has attained Candidacy has demonstrated a commitment to meeting the compliance standards set by the Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards, but has not yet demonstrated full compliance.
- Students who enter programs that attain Candidacy in or before the academic year in which they begin their program of study will be retroactively recognized as having graduated from a CSWEaccredited program once the program attains Initial Accreditation. Candidacy is typically a threeyear process and attaining Candidacy does not guarantee that a program will eventually attain Initial Accreditation. Candidacy applies to all program sites and program delivery methods of an accredited program. Accreditation provides reasonable assurance about the quality of the program and the competence of students graduating from the program.
- For more information about social work accreditation, you may contact <u>Accreditation</u>.

Ongoing Pre-Candidacy Consultation

- ✓ Sign up for a monthly Interactive Pre-Candidacy Workshop with the Associate Director of Accreditation Operations & Technology (ADOT) on the third Thursday of every month, 1-3pm ET/10am-noon PT. All program faculty or administrators at programs in Pre-Candidacy or earlier stages welcome
 - ✓ Email Anna R. Holster, at <u>aholster@cswe.org</u> for assistance with any Pre-Candidacy questions
- ✓ Visit https://annaholster.youcanbook.me to schedule a Zoom consultation with Associate Director of Accreditation Operations & Technology
 - ✓ New Pre-Candidacy Group at CSWE Spark to share resources with peers
 - Program designates one primary contact, but that person is encouraged to involve any other faculty or administrators in consultation appointments
- ✓ Please submit <u>database audit form</u>, so we can keep our records of prospective programs current. Submit any time you have program updates.



Upcoming Topics (subject to change)

- October Topic (#4): Assessment (repeated from April)
- November Topic (#6): Mission, Goals, and Field Education (repeated from May)
- December Topic (#1): Candidacy Overview (repeated from June)
- January Topic (#7): Implicit Curriculum, Policies, Procedures, Handbook & Field Manual (repeated from July)
- ► February Topic (#5): Commissioner Visit planning with a panel of guests from the Commission on Accreditation (repeated each February)
- March Topic (#2): Explicit Curriculum (repeated from August)
- April Topic (#3): Faculty and Administration Standards (repeated from September)
- ▶ Please feel free to suggest additional topics you would like to see covered in the chat or by emailing me at aholster@cswe.org.

