



COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

**Timeline of Activities
Post-master's Social Work Fellowship Accreditation
2017-2021**

October 2017	The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs presented an overview of their fellowship programs and need for a formal accreditation process to the accreditation department at CSWE
February 2018	CSWE staff presented to the Commission on Accreditation (COA) an overview of social work fellowship training and CSWE's decision to establish a recognition process for fellowship programs
October 2018	CSWE hired a part-time staff member, Stephanie McNally, to manage the initiative
Oct 2018 - Jan 2019	A review was conducted of the advanced training program accreditation procedures and fee structures used by other professions, to include: Chiropractic Care, Occupational Therapy, Optometry, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Podiatry, Psychology, and Nursing.
Feb - June 2019	First drafts were developed of accreditation requirements and materials (including fee structure, processes and procedures, eligibility requirements, program criteria, and application materials).
May - June 2019	A survey was distributed to 52 existing fellowship programs to narrow down the scope of the initiative and measure interest in volunteering or seeking accreditation.
June – July 2019	Accreditation requirements and materials were modified based on survey results and four programs were identified to participate in the pilot
October 2019	CSWE staff presented to COA an update on the initiative, including the need for fellowship programs to be formally accredited by COA, a CHEA-recognized accreditor. COA formally endorsed the fellowship accreditation initiative and the pilot was launched.
December 2019	Statements of Intent were submitted by each of the four programs participating in the pilot
February 2020	CSWE staff presented to COA a proposal for the initiative including a sample workflow and breakdown of parties involved. COA approved the proposal, demonstrated support for the proposed roster of Fellowship Review Committee (FRC) members and appointed two COA members to serve as liaisons for the initiative. Following the COA meeting, the FRC members were appointed for a two-year term (Feb 2020- Feb 2022).
April 2020	Introductory call was conducted with the FRC
April - May 2020	Applications for Accreditation were submitted by each of the four programs participating in the pilot.
May 2020	FRC members completed Application Review Training
June – Sept 2020	Applications for Accreditation were reviewed by FRC and site visit authorizations were sent
October 2020	FRC members completed Site Visit Training (visits will take place in 2021)
January 2021	FRC met to discuss changes needed to accreditation process, including the need to transition from a 4-eligibility requirement/4-program criteria model to formal accreditation standards
February 2021	Draft 1 of the <i>Post-master's Fellowship Accreditation Standards</i> was presented to COA, which was received favorably the commission
March 2021	A survey to collect feedback on Draft 1 of the <i>Post-master's Fellowship Accreditation Standards</i> was sent to all existing fellowship programs
June 2021	COA, ratifying an accreditation decision recommendation made by the FRC, accredited the first post-master's social work fellowship program.

