



CSWE Accreditation Guidance for Programs Affected by Hurricane Ida

CSWE and its Department of Social Work Accreditation wish to extend our concern for the well-being of the faculty members, staff, and students of the social work programs and communities affected by Hurricane Ida. The safety of students, educators, social workers, and their clients and communities is paramount to CSWE and its Commission on Accreditation (COA).

In response to the damage caused by the hurricane, please note the following information regarding field education and site visits. Please check the [Accreditation section](#) of CSWE's website for further updates, and questions may be directed to your program's [accreditation specialist](#).

Field education

- Although programs may have the capacity to operate virtually or in a hybrid capacity due to COVID-19, we understand some institutions have halted operations due to the impact of Hurricane Ida.
- Accreditation guidance for COVID-19 remains in effect and applies to field education questions related to Hurricane Ida, including reduction of field hours and flexibilities around remote field education. These provisions remain in effect until May 31, 2022.
- For more information please visit [CSWE Department of Social Work Accreditation Response to COVID-19 FAQs & Field Guidance](#).
 - Current COA interpretation allows "in-person" contact to be accomplished through digital technologies. There is neither a minimum requirement regarding direct client contact hours nor a maximum regarding virtual contact hours.
 - During the COVID-19 pandemic, at program discretion remote field activity, field supervision, field seminar hours, and simulations may be counted toward the accrual of field hours. Such activities should be based on enhancing student social work competence in real or simulated practice settings.
 - Page 4 of the FAQs includes examples and ideas for field tasks that may support student learning during times of disruption.

Site visits

- Site visits scheduled for programs affected by Hurricane Ida may be rescheduled. Programs and site visitors are encouraged to contact Anna Holster at aholster@cswe.org for information about rescheduling.
- For additional information review the following policies in the [EPAS Handbook](#):
 - Reaffirmation Site Visits: *2.3.6 Emergencies or Questions During Site Visits*
 - *3.3.8. Commissioner Visit I*
 - *3.4.5. Commissioner Visit II*
 - Initial Accreditation Commission Visits: *4.4.4. Emergencies or Questions During the Visit*
- Please also visit the [Guidelines and Tips for Virtual Visits](#) resource.