Top Findings on Baccalaureate Social Work Education
From the 2007 Annual Survey of Social Work Programs

The Annual Survey of Social Work Programs is administered to all accredited social work programs in the fall of each year. The survey includes questions about baccalaureate students, faculty, program structure, and administration. In 2007, 397 (86.1%) baccalaureate social work programs responded to the survey. The following are some highlights from the baccalaureate section of the survey.

Baccalaureate Social Work Programs
Programs were asked a number of questions about program structure, such as setting, application process, and tenure policies. Regarding institutional setting, the highest percentage of programs are located in urban settings (44%; 168). Notably, the percentage of baccalaureate programs in a rural setting is higher than at the master’s (17.4%; 28) or doctoral (3.8%; 2).

Programs by Primary Setting

A number of new questions were asked in 2007 regarding program policies, including a question about whether programs ask students to fill out an application to declare social work as a major. The majority of programs (77.7%; 304) reported that an application is required. Other new questions in 2007 addressed tenure policy.

Tenure Policy for Baccalaureate Programs
• Changed policy for granting tenure 11.8% (44)
• Made the standards more stringent for granting tenure 14.8% (55)
• Reduced the number of tenured faculty and instructional staff through downsizing 1.6% (6)
• Replaced tenured or tenure-track faculty with faculty on fixed term contracts 8.6% (32)
• Offered early or phased retirement to tenured faculty or staff 7.6% (28)

Baccalaureate Students and Graduates
The Annual Survey collected information about the number of applications, enrolled students, field placements, and graduates. A total of 26,055 full-time students and 4,499 part-time students (juniors and seniors only) were enrolled as of November 1st in the 2007-2008 academic year.

Overall, 88.5% (20,671) of the full-time enrolled students were female and the highest percentage of students are “25 and Under” in age (57.2%; 14,903). Minority students comprised 34.6% (8,999) of the full-time enrolled. For the part-time students, the distribution of gender was comparable to full-time students (85.0%; 3,458 female). However, the part-time programs had a higher percentage of minority students (52.6%; 2,218).

Age and Gender of Full-time Enrolled Baccalaureate Students (juniors and seniors) as of November 1, 2007

For more information about students and graduates is available in the 2007 Research Brief and Summary.