



COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

Accreditation Site Visitor Information Session

March 6, 2026



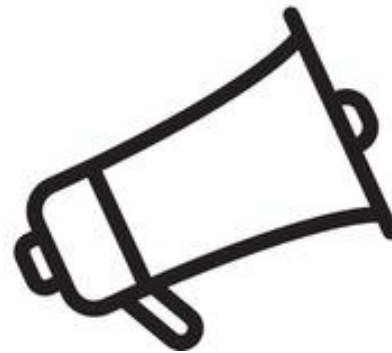
Agenda



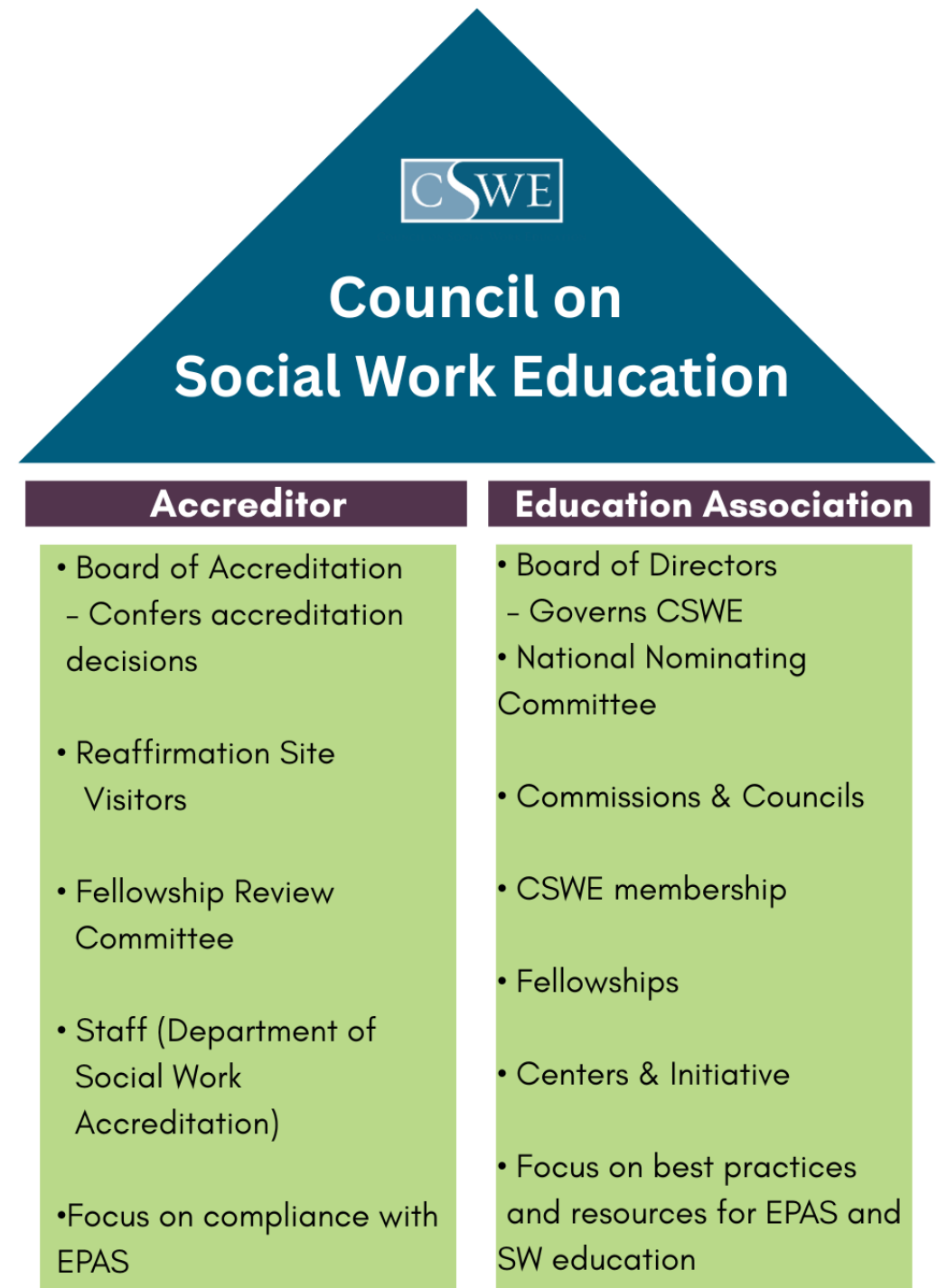
- 1. CSWE and Accreditation Context**
- 2. Site Visitor Role and Responsibilities**
- 3. Site Visitor Eligibility and Applications**
- 4. Site Visitor Onboarding and Training**
- 5. Site Visit Assignment and Logistics**
- 6. Q&A with Site Visitor Panelists**

All About:
*Accreditation and
Site Visitors*

ACCREDITATION



CSWE Context: Two Pillars



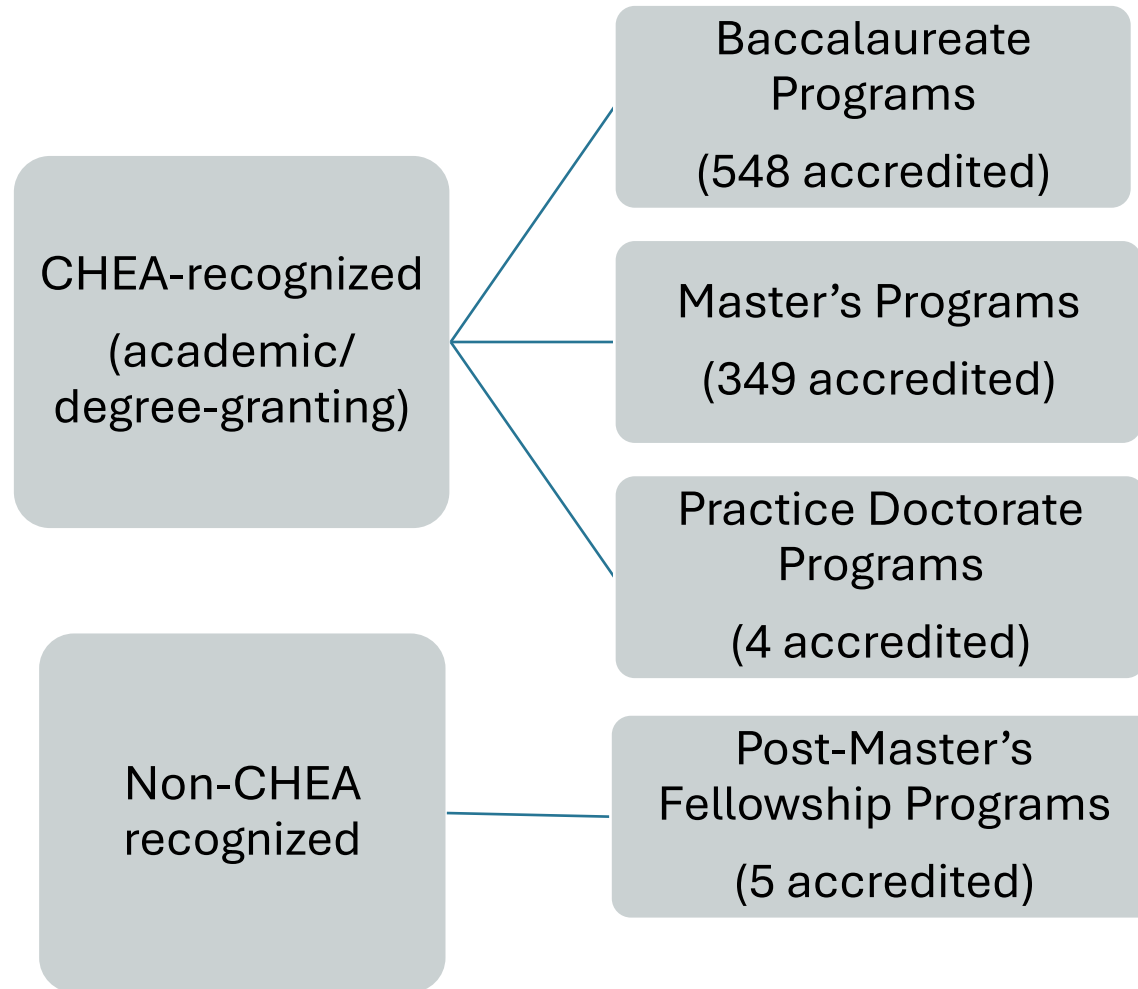
About Accreditation

Purpose: Achieving accreditation demonstrates to the public and prospective trainees that the program meets a standardized level of educational quality.

CSWE's Board of Accreditation (BOA) is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation as the sole accrediting agency for social work education in the United States and its territories.



CSWE-BOA Scope of Accreditation





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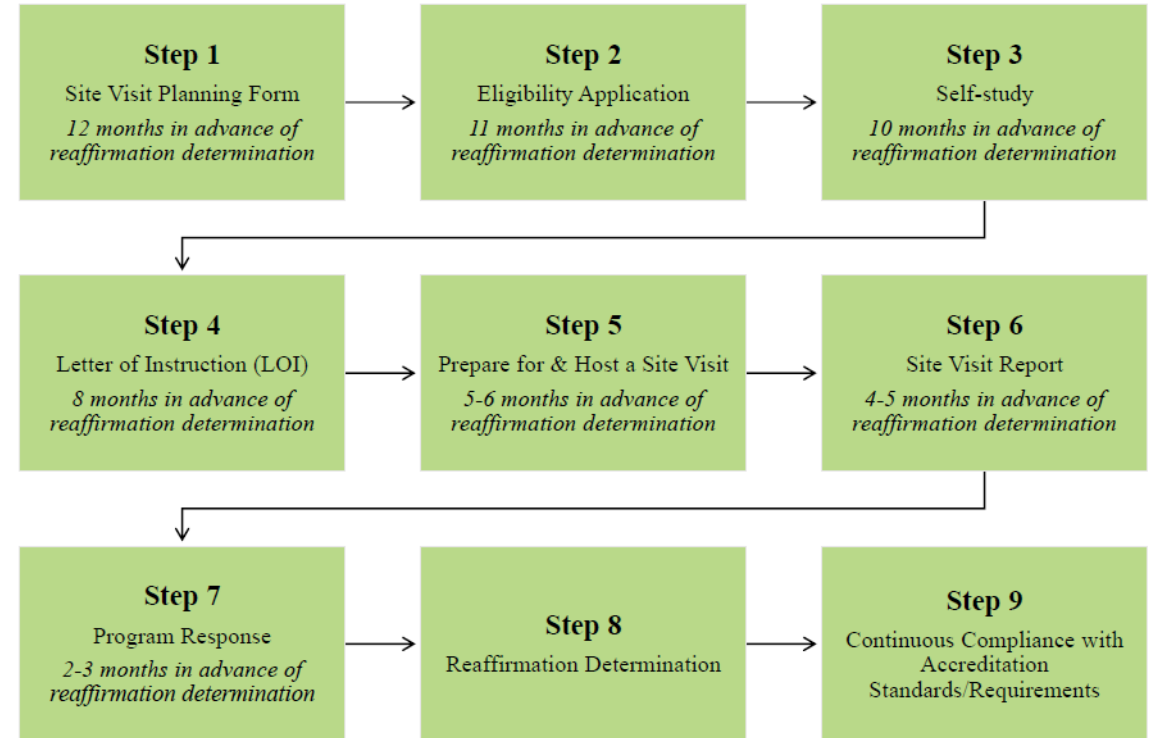
Board of Accreditation (BOA)
Department of Social Work Accreditation (DOSWA)
Baccalaureate and Master's Social Work Program Accreditation

Site Visitor Role

CSWE-accredited baccalaureate and master's social work programs (and practice doctorate programs in future) host site visits as an integral part of the reaffirmation process.

Site visitors conduct visits to programs on behalf of the CSWE Board of Accreditation (BOA). The site visitor's role is to be an objective gatherer of information to inform reaffirmation decisions.

Reaffirmation Process Overview



Site Visitor Responsibilities



Visit Preparation: Review the program's self-study and BOA-issued Letter of Instruction (LOI).



Plan the Visit: Work collaboratively to make visit arrangements and create the visit schedule.



Conduct the Visit: Meet with program stakeholders to collect the information requested by the BOA.



Document the Visit: Submit a report summarizing objective findings following the visit.



Site Visitors do not make compliance decisions or offer guidance or advice to programs.**

Getting Started:

Eligibility & Application



Perks of Becoming an Accreditation Volunteer

- Engage in esteemed volunteer service and professional development
- Enhance your own accreditation expertise and technical discussion and writing skills to contribute to your own social work program's accreditation efforts
- Learn about new, innovative, and promising social work education practices
- Have a network of peers and fellow volunteers with expertise in accreditation
- Receive annual letters of recognition for services, that may be used for promotions
- Join the annual volunteer celebration at CSWE Annual Conference.
- Contribute to the overall improvement of the social work profession and educational community

Site Visitor Eligibility Requirements

Site Visitors must:

- be a full- or part-time social work faculty member at a CSWE-accredited or candidate social work program or from a practice doctorate program that commits to seeking accreditation in 2025-2026;
- possess at least three years of teaching experience in a CSWE-accredited or candidate social work program or in a practice doctorate program that commits to seeking accreditation in 2025-2026;
- have continued engagement in teaching and learning at a CSWE-accredited or candidate program or in a practice doctorate program that commits to seeking accreditation in 2025-2026;
- be willing to conduct at least one site visit every two academic years; and
- be an active CSWE member or work at an institution with a CSWE-accredited social work program

Site Visitors may not:

- Be a member of the CSWE Board of Directors or Board of Accreditation while serving as a site visitor

Highly Desired Qualities:

- Experience as an administrator, educator, or student, in social work **practice doctorate program(s)**.
- **Fluency in Spanish & English**, including the ability to review program materials and conduct visits in Spanish and English.

¿ERES BILINGÜE?

**¡SE BUSCAN VOLUNTARIOS
BILINGÜES (INGLÉS Y
ESPAÑOL)!**

CSWE IS ACTIVELY RECRUITING
VOLUNTEERS WITH SPANISH FLUENCY.

APPLY IN SPRING!

Site Visitor Applications

- Applications must be completed in the online portal.
- Applicants will:
 - respond to a brief set of questions (including a statement of interest);
 - upload CV; and
 - upload a letter of support from their program's chief administrator (e.g., dean, chair); that supports the time necessary to devote to site visitor trainings and commitments. If the applicant is the program's chief administrator, a letter of support from an institutional administrator (e.g., provost).



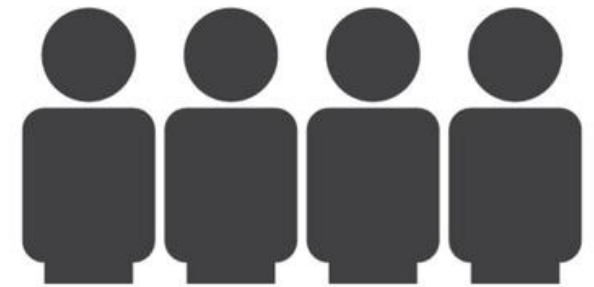
Applicant Appointment

- Applications are evaluated based on applicant qualifications and to ensure a diverse and well-rounded group of volunteers, considering, but not limited to the following: number of visits in the upcoming reaffirmation cycle(s), geographic diversity, institutional auspice (e.g., minority-serving institution, research/teaching focus), social work program options, size, program foci, and [CSWE's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy Statement](#).
- Applicants will be notified of a decision by June. Site Visitors are appointed to terms of 3-year terms of service, with the option to renew their appointment at the end of their term.
- Applicants appointed this year will serve their three-year term from **July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2029**.



Training

Onboarding & First Visit



Training & Certification

- After appointment, site visitors must become certified to be eligible to conduct visits.
- To become certified, appointed site visitors must complete:
 - One *virtual* orientation session in **summer 2026 (~ 1 hour)**
 - One *virtual* training session in **fall 2026 (~ 3 hours)**
 - Dates of orientation/training are provided on the application
- **Goal:** First visit spring or fall 2027 (depending on site visitor availability and other scheduling factors)
- **Ongoing Connection/Training:** *Site Visitor Drop-In Sessions* are optional quarterly training refreshers and peer connection time.

Visit Assignments and Logistics

- **Assignments:** Occur three (3) times per year
 - Visitors provide their availability and conflicts
 - Visitors confirm or decline any offered visit
- **Number of Visits:**
 - Likely at least one (1) visit per year, depending on availability and other matching factors.
 - Visitors must complete one (1) visit every two (2) years, otherwise they will be re-trained.
- **Type of Visit:**
 - Most visits are in-person and require travel
 - Virtual visits are not as common but available
- **Cost:**
 - Programs are responsible for all visit-related costs.
 - However, visitors may pay out-of-pocket for meals or rideshares and then are reimbursed.

Q&A:
Ask the Panelists



Site Visitor Interest Form



Becoming an Accreditation Volunteer



Next Steps

Applications are open April 1 – April 30, 2026

1. Visit cswe.org/volunteer or cswe.org/accredvolunteer
2. Click link to apply
3. Complete Site Visitor Interest Form to get an email reminder
4. Send any questions to Alyson Balfour at adurant@cswe.org