



COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

# Board of Accreditation Information Session

March 13, 2026



# Agenda

---

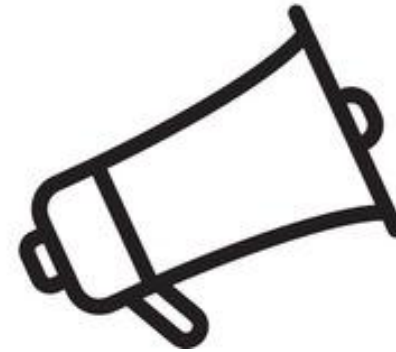


- 1. CSWE and Accreditation Context**
- 2. BOA Member Role and Responsibilities**
- 3. BOA Eligibility and Applications**
- 4. BOA Onboarding and Training**

**All About:**

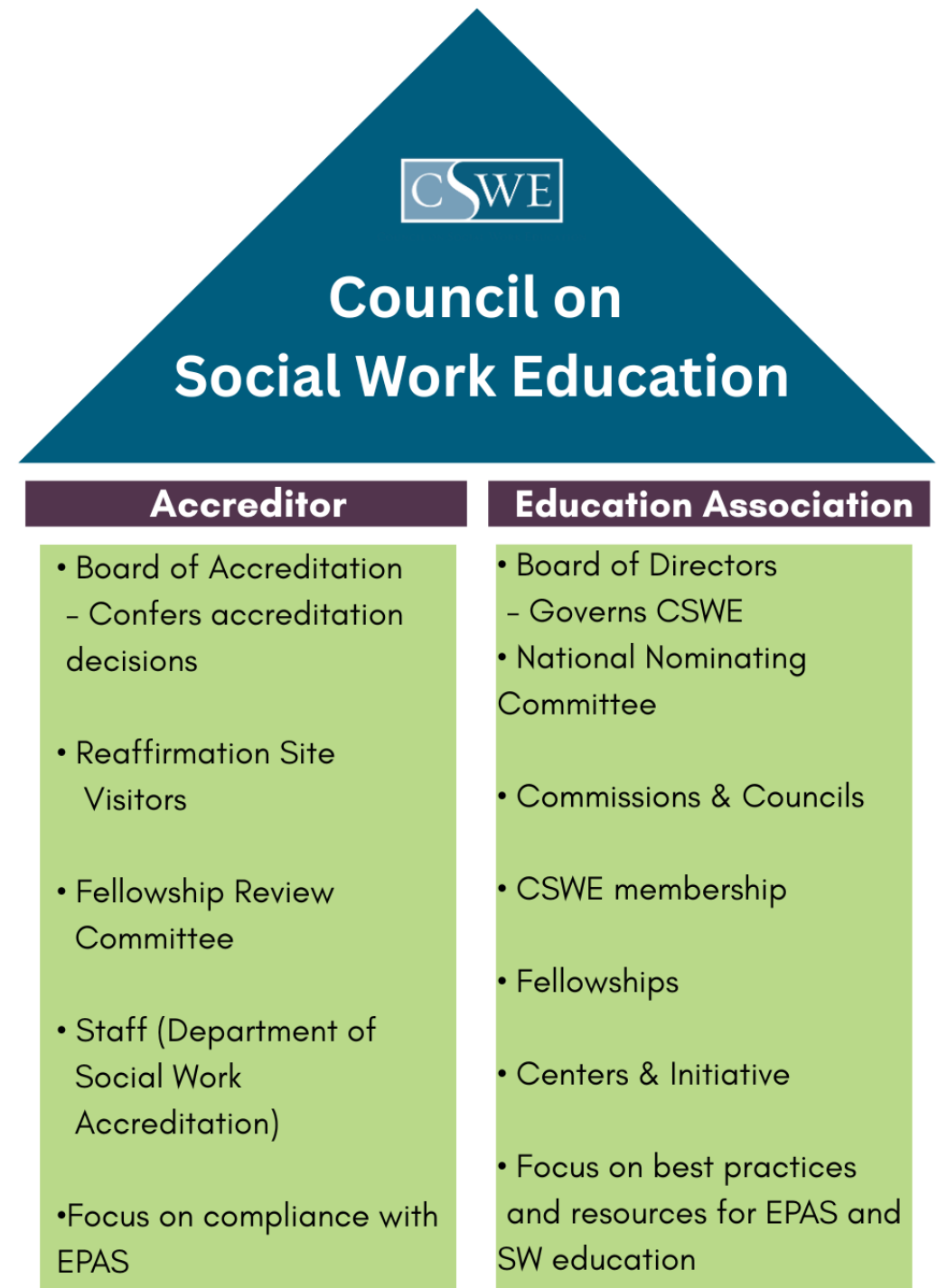
*Accreditation and  
BOA Members*

**ACCREDITATION**



# CSWE Context: Two Pillars

---



# About Accreditation

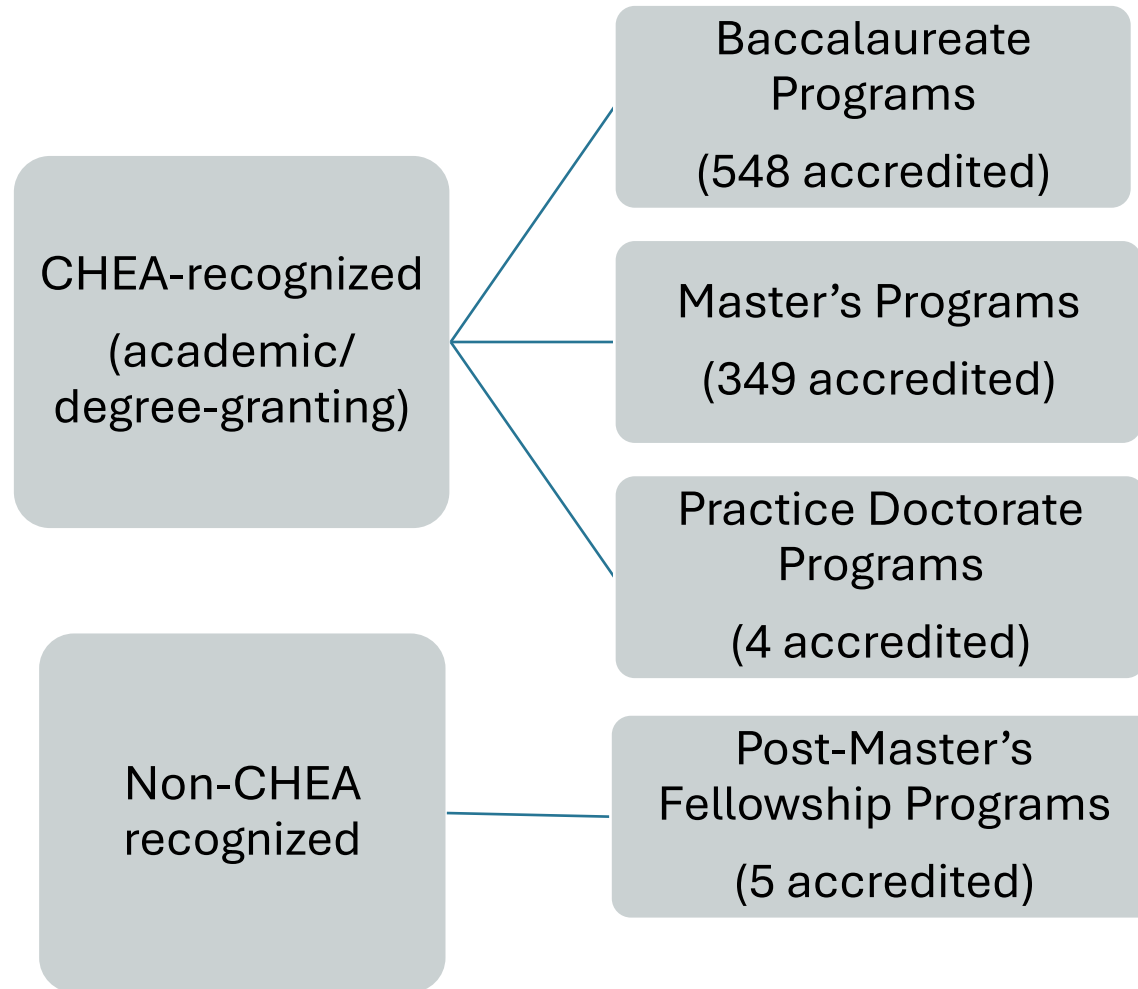
---

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



# BOA Member Meeting Responsibilities



Members attend BOA meetings three times per year (October, February, June).



Review 6-10 program documents per meeting to make decision recommendations in your workgroup.



Participate in board group discussions about accreditation matters.



Receive updates and training from CSWE staff.



Some BOA meetings are conducted virtually while others are conducted in-person at CSWE headquarters in Alexandria, VA.

# BOA Member Visit Responsibilities



**Visit Preparation:** Review the program's documents to identify areas of discussion in the visit.



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



**Conduct the Visit:** Meet with program stakeholders to collect information and give guidance.



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



**BOA Members discuss both compliance and consultation during visits.**

# BOA Member Responsibilities Timeline

PROCESS	CYCLE 1				CYCLE 2			CYCLE 3				
	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July
BOA Meetings			█				█				█	
Document Review	█				█				█			
Candidacy Visits (1-3/year)		9/1-11/15			12/1-2/28			3/1-5/31				

# 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

# BOA Eligibility Requirements:

- hold full-time faculty or administrative appointment in a CSWE-BOA accredited or candidate social work program, or a new applicant practice doctorate program, so long as the individual holds an active CSWE membership either individual or program.
- possess a minimum of 5-years teaching in a CSWE-BOA accredited or candidate social work program or in a practice doctorate program that commits to seeking accreditation in 2025-2026;
- have recent experience as a CSWE accreditation site visitor, having conducted at least three (3) site visits using the 2015 or 2022 EPAS;
- have demonstrated knowledge of curriculum development and accreditation procedures;
- be an active CSWE member or work at an institution with a CSWE-accredited social work program

# Disqualifications Overview:

- No person shall serve simultaneously on the CSWE Board of Directors and the BOA.
- No person shall serve simultaneously on any other CSWE commission or council and the BOA.
- During their terms on the BOA, BOA members shall not serve as site visitors (including mock site visits), Fellowship Review Committee members, or as consultants to social work programs seeking accreditation or reaffirmation.

# 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!**

# Board of Accreditation Applications

- Applications must be completed in the online portal.
- Applicants will:
  - respond to questions (including a statement of interest)
  - upload CV

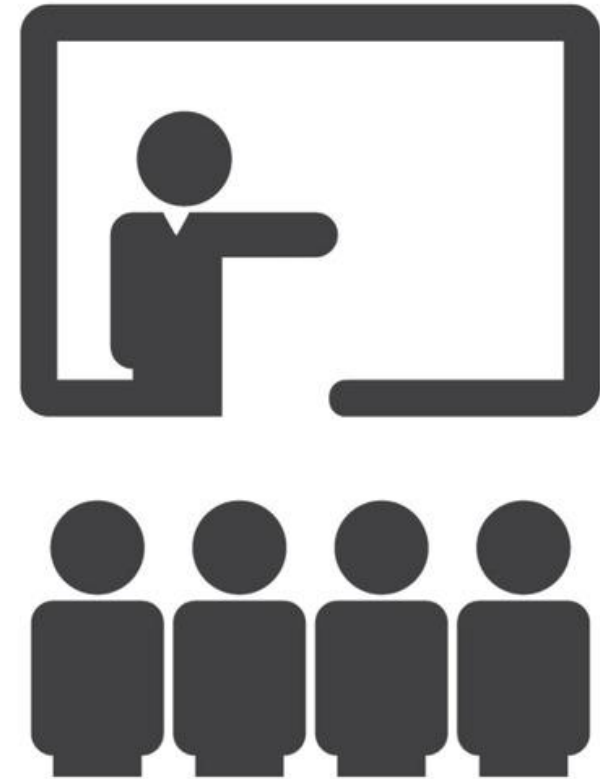


# Applicant Appointment

- 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 mid-June. BOA members are appointed to terms of 3-year terms of service, with the option to renew their appointment for a total of two terms.
- Applicants appointed this year will serve their three-year term from **July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2029**.



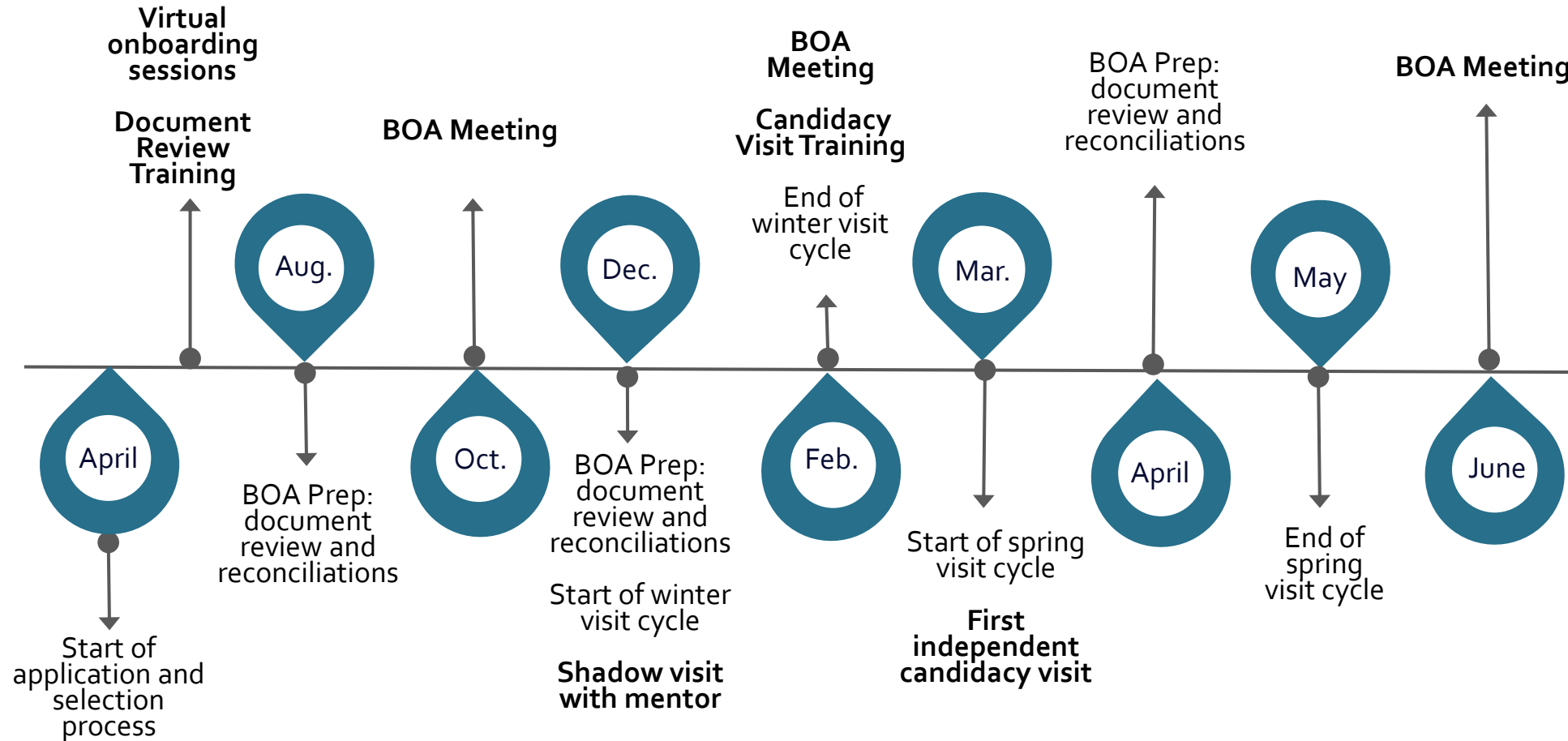
# Training: *Onboarding & First Visit*



# Onboarding, Training & First Visit

- **BOA Orientation Sessions:** Held virtually in the summer (July / August 2026)
  - Part 1: CSWE Governance Structure, Accrediting Body Overview (**~1 hour**)
  - Part 2: BOA Member Role/Duties Overview/Document Review (**~2 hours**)
  - Part 3: Accreditation Specialist Meet & Greet / Q&A About 1<sup>st</sup> BOA Meeting (**~1 hour**)
- **BOA Buddy / Mentor:** Assigned in summer (July / August). BOA Buddy Mentors are available for consultation on document review ahead of the BOA meeting. Their main role is the winter shadow visit, in which the new BOA member will shadow a full candidacy visit conducted by their mentor.
- **Candidacy Visit Training:** New BOA members have formal visit training prior to visiting independently, usually after the shadow visit. (**~1 hour**)
- **Goal:** First independent visit spring or fall 2027 (depending on availability and other scheduling factors)

# First Year BOA Timeline



# Board of Accreditation Interest Form



# Becoming an Accreditation Volunteer



# Next Steps

Applications are open April 1 – April 30, 2026

1. Visit **[cswe.org/volunteer](https://cswe.org/volunteer)** or **[cswe.org/accredvolunteer](https://cswe.org/accredvolunteer)**
2. Click link to apply
3. Complete BOA Interest Form to get an email reminder
4. Send any questions to Alyson Balfour at [adurant@cswe.org](mailto:adurant@cswe.org)