



COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

Practice Doctorate Accreditation Training

Welcome!



" Nice to
meet you!"

Welcome!

1. Change your Zoom name:
Your Name, Program Name
Pronouns are welcome!

For Example:

David Rose, Rosebud
Academy – They/them

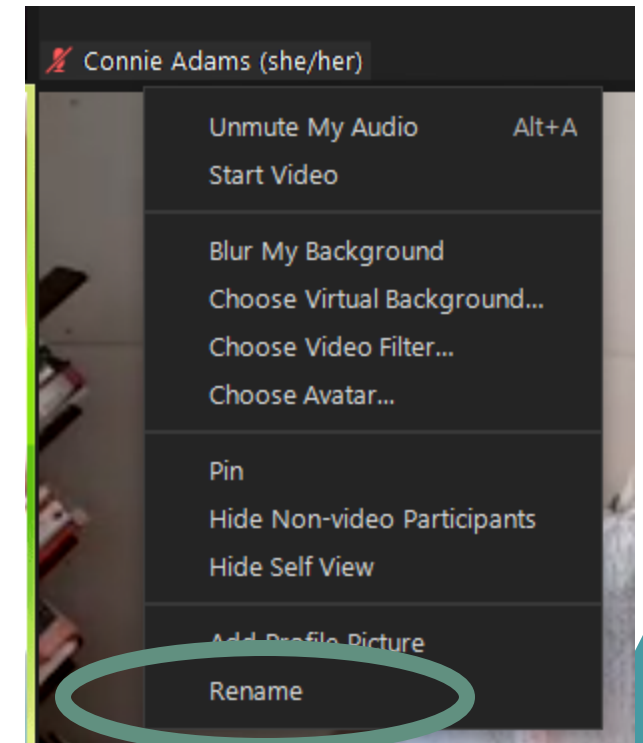
Renaming Self on Zoom

To rename yourself:

1. Locate your video box on the screen.
2. Hover over your name on the bottom left.



Renaming Self on Zoom



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1. Change your Zoom name: Your Name, Program Name

1. Pronouns are welcome!

For Example:

- David Rose, Rosebud Academy – They/them

Core CSWE Ideology

Land Acknowledgement

The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) acknowledges the ancestral lands of Indigenous Peoples throughout the continental United States, Alaska, Hawai'i, and territories.

Vision

To ensure a well-educated social work profession equipped to advocate for and promote education, health, well-being, universal rights, and justice in a diverse world.

Mission

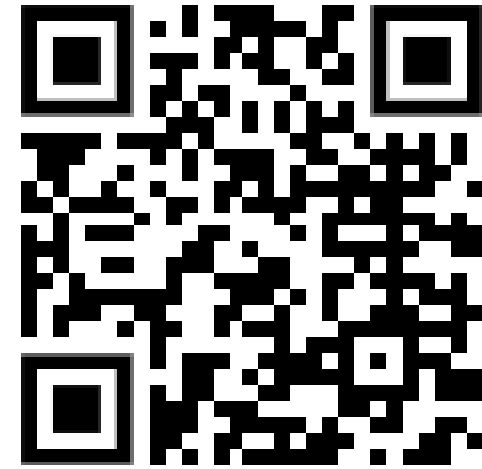
To advance excellence and innovation in social work education, by providing leadership and scholarship, to ensure quality in teaching and learning, supporting critical thinking and advocacy to strengthen the capacity of our membership.

Core Values

- Exhibiting and acting consistently with ADEIB in all we do.
- Stewardship of our profession, our organization, and our processes.
- Respect, access and justice for all planetary life.
- Innovation, foresight, transformation, collaboration, and the courage to advocate and lead.
- Educational excellence that is science-based, responsive and forward focused.

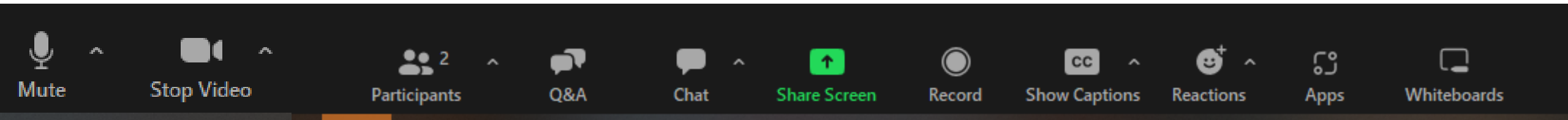
[Learn more here.](#)

Land Acknowledgement

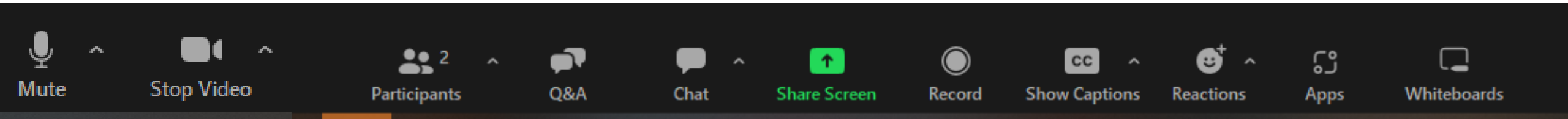


Zoom Functions

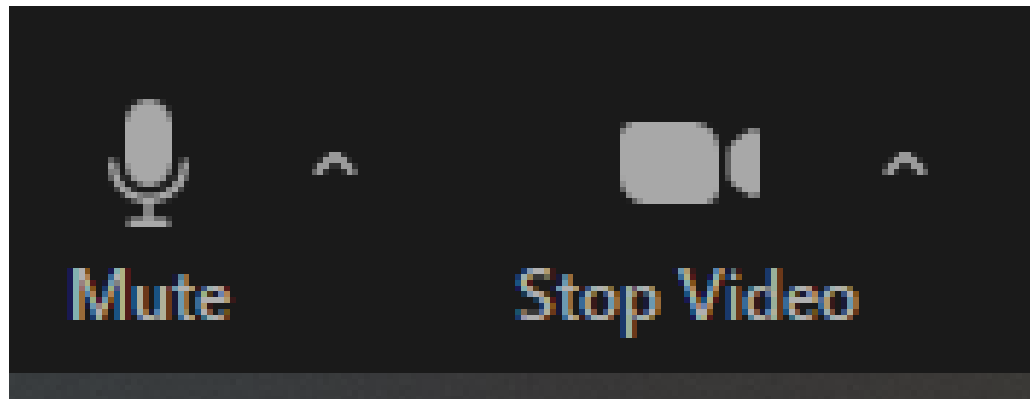
Zoom Participant Toolbar



Mute/Unmute Function

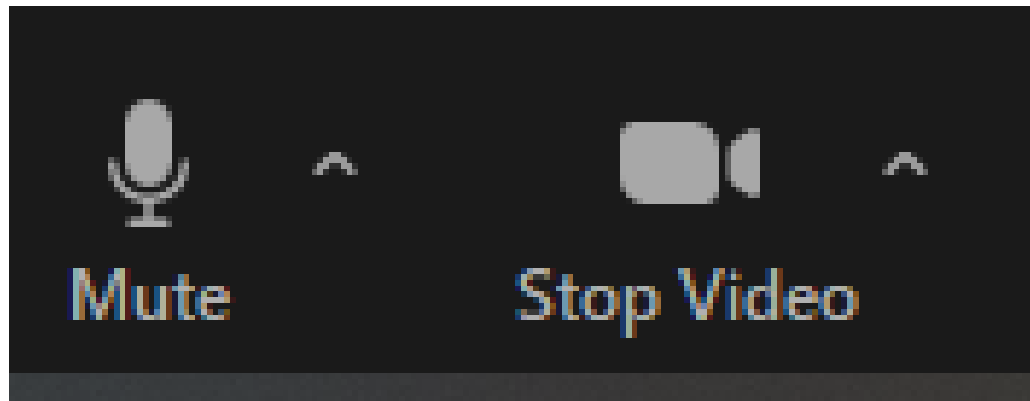


Mute/Unmute Function



Unmuted

Mute/Unmute Function

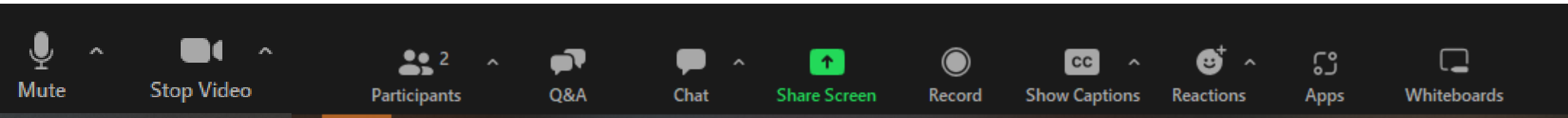


Unmuted



Muted

Zoom Participant Toolbar



Video Function

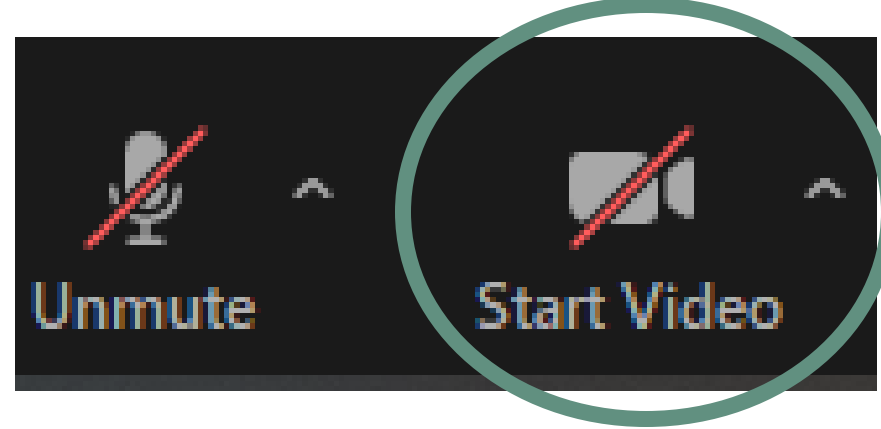


Camera
is on

Video Function

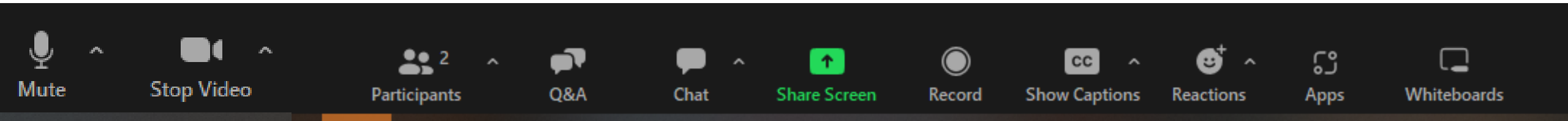


Camera
is on



Camera
is off

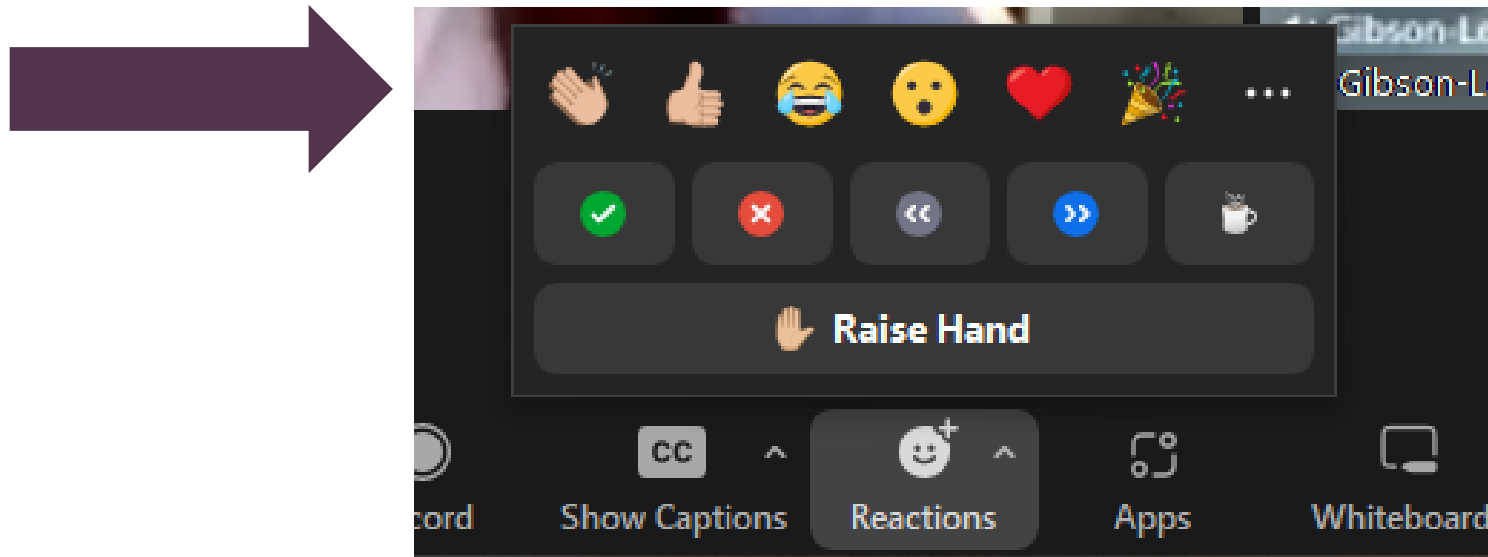
Raise Hand Function



Emoji Function

To share an emoji:

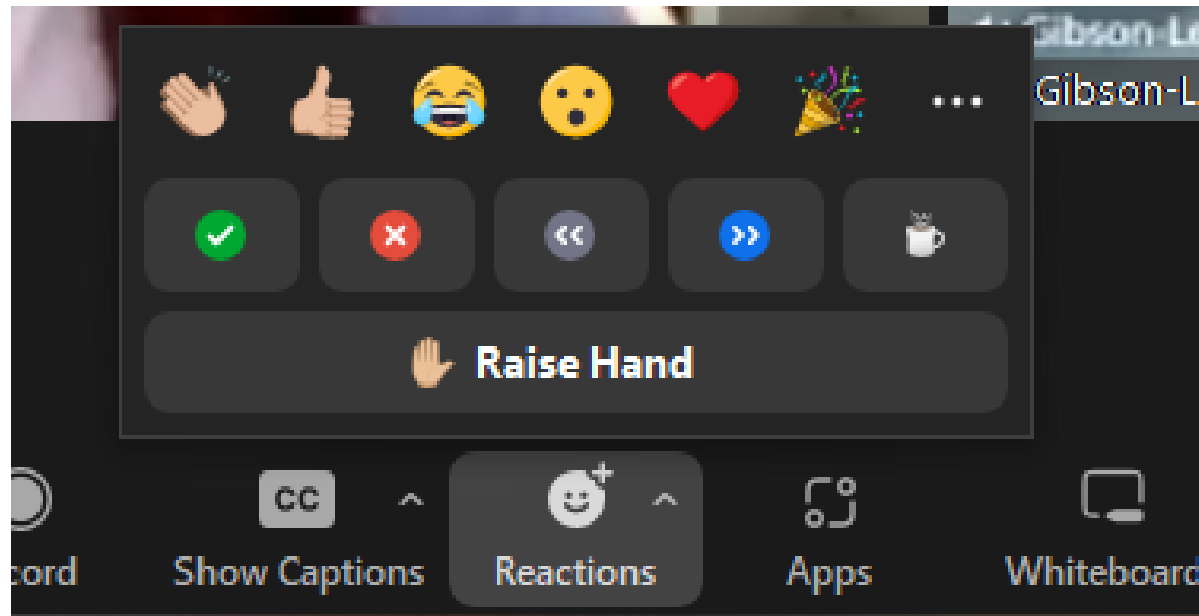
1. Click “Reactions” at the bottom of your screen.
2. Click whichever emoji displays, or “...” for additional options and select.
3. First row of options disappears automatically.



Raise Hand Function

To raise your virtual hand:

1. Click “Reactions” at the bottom of your screen
2. Click “Raise Hand”





Polling Question

Polling Function

- **Sample Question:** If you could have any superpower, what would it be?
 - Invisibility
 - Ability to fly
 - Super-human strength
 - Ability to morph into anything
 - Other

Brief Introductions

- Brief participant introductions
 - If able, unmute and share.
 - No longer than 2 minutes total
 - Mute when finished
- Please share:
 - Your Name, pronouns
 - Institution/program
 - Stage of program's implementation/development
 - Favorite summertime activity/hobby/

Other Basics

- Highlight purpose
- Overall format
- Not recording
- Privacy of dialogue
- Take care of yourself

Training Overview

Training Objectives

1

Understand and navigate accreditation processes.

2

Learn and apply the 2025 AS within the program's unique context.

3

Understand fundamentals of scheduling and hosting a candidacy visit.

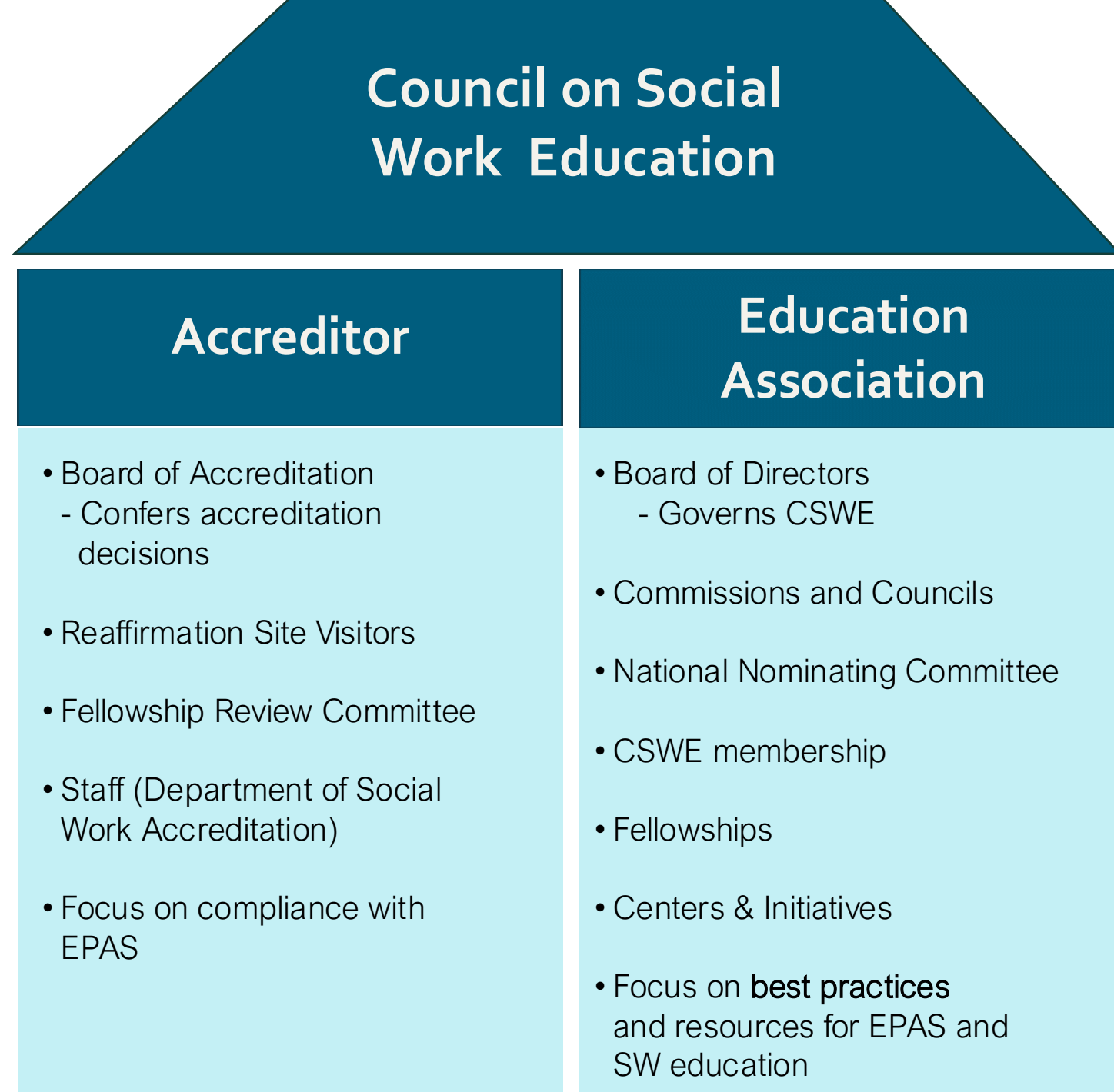
4

Gain awareness of and encourage engagement with CSWE accreditation services.

5

Promote confidence in the accreditation process for continuous improvement.

CSWE Context: Two Pillar



CSWE-BOA Accreditation: Key Terms

Popular Terms

- **Board of Accreditation (BOA):** The sole accrediting body for social work education in the US, district, and territories.
- **Department of Social Work Accreditation (DOSWA):** The department within CSWE's staff structure that facilitates accreditation processes in partnership with the BOA.

Popular Terms

- **EPAS:** The Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards is the official published document by which the CSWE-BOA evaluates baccalaureate and master's programs and bases their compliance decisions upon.
- **Accreditation Standards (AS):** Accreditation Standards are a set of guidelines for quality assurance and improvement reflective of educational policies; they set the floor for minimum compliance.
- **Compliance statements:** Criteria used by the BOA to evaluate the program's written narrative for compliance with the accreditation standard.

Popular Terms

- **Candidacy:** The multi-step accreditation process for new or existing social work programs to receive CSWE-BOA initial accreditation; begins with pre-candidacy status.
- **New Applicant Programs:** Programs which are exploring or beginning the process to obtain CSWE-BOA pre-candidacy status.
- **Pre-candidacy Status:** The first official CSWE-BOA status; Received when program receives staff approval of Benchmark 1 documents, placement on a BOA meeting agenda, and placement in CSWE's public-facing directory.
- **Candidacy Status:** The second official CSWE-BOA status; Received when the BOA grants candidacy following the review of Benchmark 1 documents during the previously assigned BOA meeting.

Popular Terms

- **Reaffirmation:** The 8-year regularly scheduled multi-step process to reaffirm or reaccredit social work programs.
- **Program Level:** The tier of educational offerings aligned with subsequent degree distribution (e.g., baccalaureate, master's, practice doctorate).
- **Co-located Programs:** Multiple CSWE new applicant, pre-candidate, candidate, and/or accredited programs are part of the same institution.



Polling Question

Polling Function

- **Question:** Is your program co-located with a baccalaureate or master's social work program?
 - Yes, both
 - Yes, baccalaureate
 - Yes, master's
 - No

Purpose of Accreditation

Accreditation is an elective peer-review system for recognizing educational institutions and professional programs affiliated with those institutions as having a level of performance, integrity, and quality that entitles them to the confidence of the educational community and the public they serve.

The purposes of accreditation are:

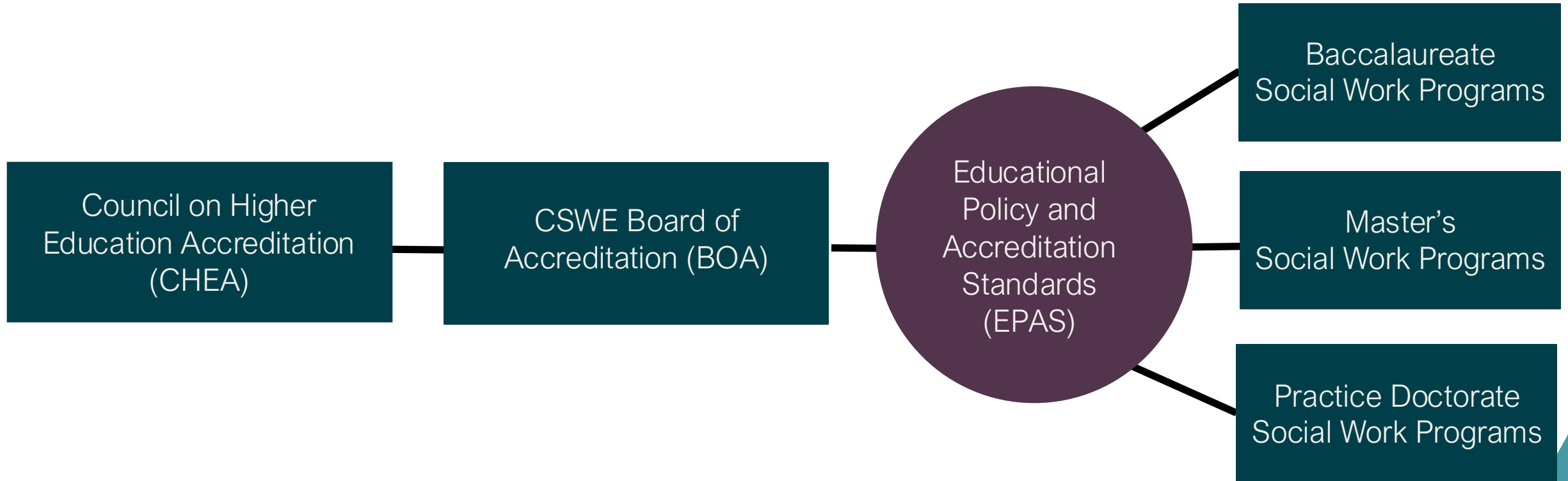
Quality assurance

Academic improvement

Professional preparation

Public accountability

Social Work Education Accreditation



Types of Accreditation

Institutional Accreditors: Accredit institutions

- [CHEA Directories](#)

Programmatic Accreditors: Accredit professional degree programs

- The CSWE Board of Accreditation (BOA) accredits social work programs
- [Directory of Accredited Programs](#)

CSWE Board of Accreditation (BOA)



- Recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) to accredit baccalaureate and master's degree programs in the United States.
 - International Social Work Degree Recognition and Evaluation Service
 - Memorandum of understanding with Canadian social work accreditor

CSWE Board of Accreditation (BOA)



- BOA members:
 - Fellow social work educators, practitioners, and one public member
 - Volunteers with a background in social work education
 - Active CSWE membership
 - At least two-years site visitor experience

Social Work Education Continuum

| Programs Accredited by the CSWE Board of Accreditation | | | Accredited by Institutional Accreditors* |
|--|---|--|--|
| Baccalaureate Social Work Degree Generalist Practice <i>Competency-based Education Model</i> | Master's Social Work Degree Specialized Practice <i>Competency-based Education Model</i> | Practice Doctorate Social Work Degree Doctoral Practice <i>Practitioner-Scholar Perspective</i> | Research Doctorate Degree PhD |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generalist practice is grounded in the liberal arts and the person-in-environment framework. To promote human and social well-being, generalist practitioners use a range of prevention and intervention methods in their practice with diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities, based on scientific inquiry and best practices. The generalist practitioner identifies with the social work profession and applies ethical principles and critical thinking in practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels. They engage in research informed practice and are proactive in | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate an ability to engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate across client populations, problem areas, and methods of intervention. Extends and enhances the nine social work competencies that are demonstrated in observable behaviors indicative of competence in specialized areas of professional practice. Specialized practitioners synthesize and use the knowledge and skills necessary for interprofessional collaborations based on scientific inquiry and best practices, consistent with social work values. They engage in both research and advocacy in their commitment to changing structural inequities and to | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop, translate, and advance social work practice knowledge; use and evaluate research-informed practice critically to translate and innovate social work practice; engage in systematic inquiry; and apply and disseminate research-informed knowledge, values, ethics, and skills in social work through practice, professional leadership, and/or teaching. Core expertise and skills: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> advance practice through innovative approaches; use and critically evaluate research and knowledge; engage in scientific inquiry that reflects doctoral level scholarship; develop and disseminate practice-relevant research-informed knowledge through a variety of channels, such as teaching, | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Aims to prepare students to be scientists, scholars, and stewards of the discipline." "Prepare graduates to develop substantive knowledge in an area of specialization, be able to conduct independent research, and have transferable skills and competencies for productive employability." |

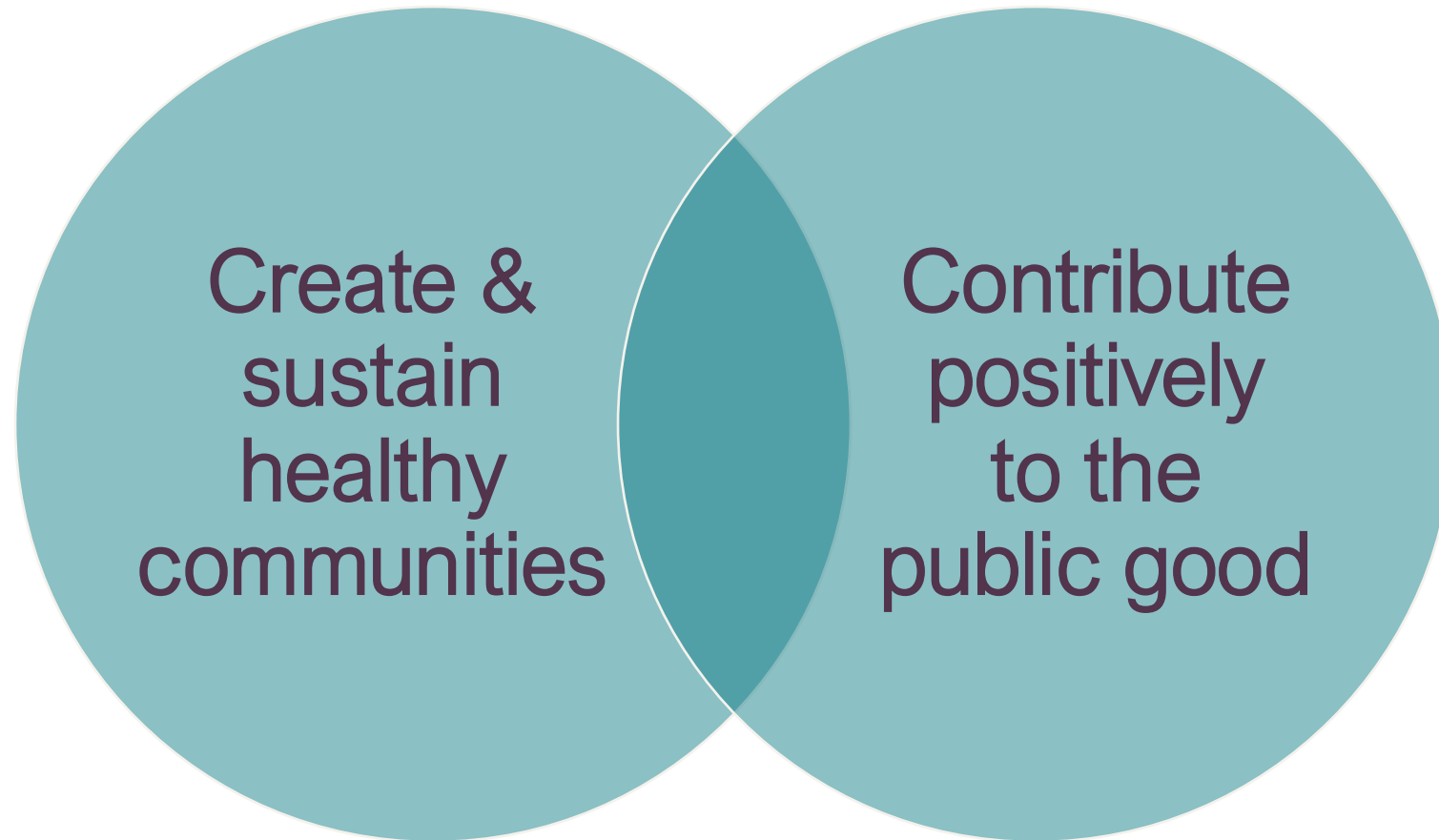
EPAS Revision Process

7 years

Current Set of National Standards for Social Work Education

2025 AS

Core of CSWE Accreditation



Values of CSWE Accreditation

Justice

Dignity and worth of the human person

Importance of human relationships

Integrity

Competence

CSWE Accreditation Benefits

Students

- Enrollment in a quality education program
- Essential professional competencies
- Qualify for employment and/or licensure

Social Work Programs

- National standards
- Continuous quality improvement
- Prepare students to practice safely, competently, and ethically with all clients, constituents, and the public

CSWE Accreditation Benefits

Licensing Boards

- Graduates of CSWE-accredited programs are prepared for holistic professional practice consistent with social work values

Social Workers in Practice

- Helps facilitate employment processes
- Most requirements stipulate graduates of a CSWE-accredited program are eligible for licensure

The Public

- Trust
- Accountability

Accreditation Scope

The CSWE Board of Accreditation (BOA) recognizes social work education programs in the United States (U.S.), district, and its territories.

BOA accredits:

- Baccalaureate and Master's Social Work Degree Programs
- Professional Practice Doctoral Programs
- Post-master's Social Work Fellowship Programs

The Key Players

BOA members

Visitors

Department of Social Work Accreditation (DOSWA) staff

Baccalaureate, master's, & practice doctorate social work programs

Peer-Review Process



- Accreditation is a peer-review
- BOA is the sole and final arbiter of compliance
 - *CSWE staff cannot determine compliance*

Minimum Compliance

- Considered the quality threshold.
- Meet minimum requirements using the EPAS, Interpretation Guide, and other BOA-sanctioned materials.
- Flexibility to craft excellent educational experiences that exceed the minimum requirements.
- CSWE-BOA sets the floor via the EPAS; programs set the ceiling!

Accreditation Process



Accreditation as a Process

- Accreditation can be an impetus for:
 - Data-informed decision-making
 - Innovation
 - Quality improvement
- Accreditation is not a one-time event.

Accreditation as a Team Effort

- Team-based approaches

Accreditation as a Team Effort

- Encourage all program stakeholders to participate:
 - Administrators
 - Full-time and part-time faculty
 - Staff
 - Students
 - Board members
 - Other relevant program stakeholders

The Journey: Looking Back & Forward

Summary of the Journey

2021-2025
Accreditation
Pilot

- 4 programs participated in the pilot

June 2024
BOA voted to:

- Offer a temporary alternative pathway to accreditation for existing practice doctorate programs to achieve expedited initial accreditation

February 2025
BOA voted to:

- Approve revised Practice Doctorate Standards
- Approve accompanying Benchmark Grid

May 2025
CSWE applied
for expansion of
scope with

- CHEA to review in July 2025
- We will be notified of outcome in October 2025

CHEA

Historical Information

Interested in diving deeper into the accreditation pilot or standards revision process?

Visit:

[cswe.org/PD/pilotandstandardsrevision](https://www.cswe.org/PD/pilotandstandardsrevision)



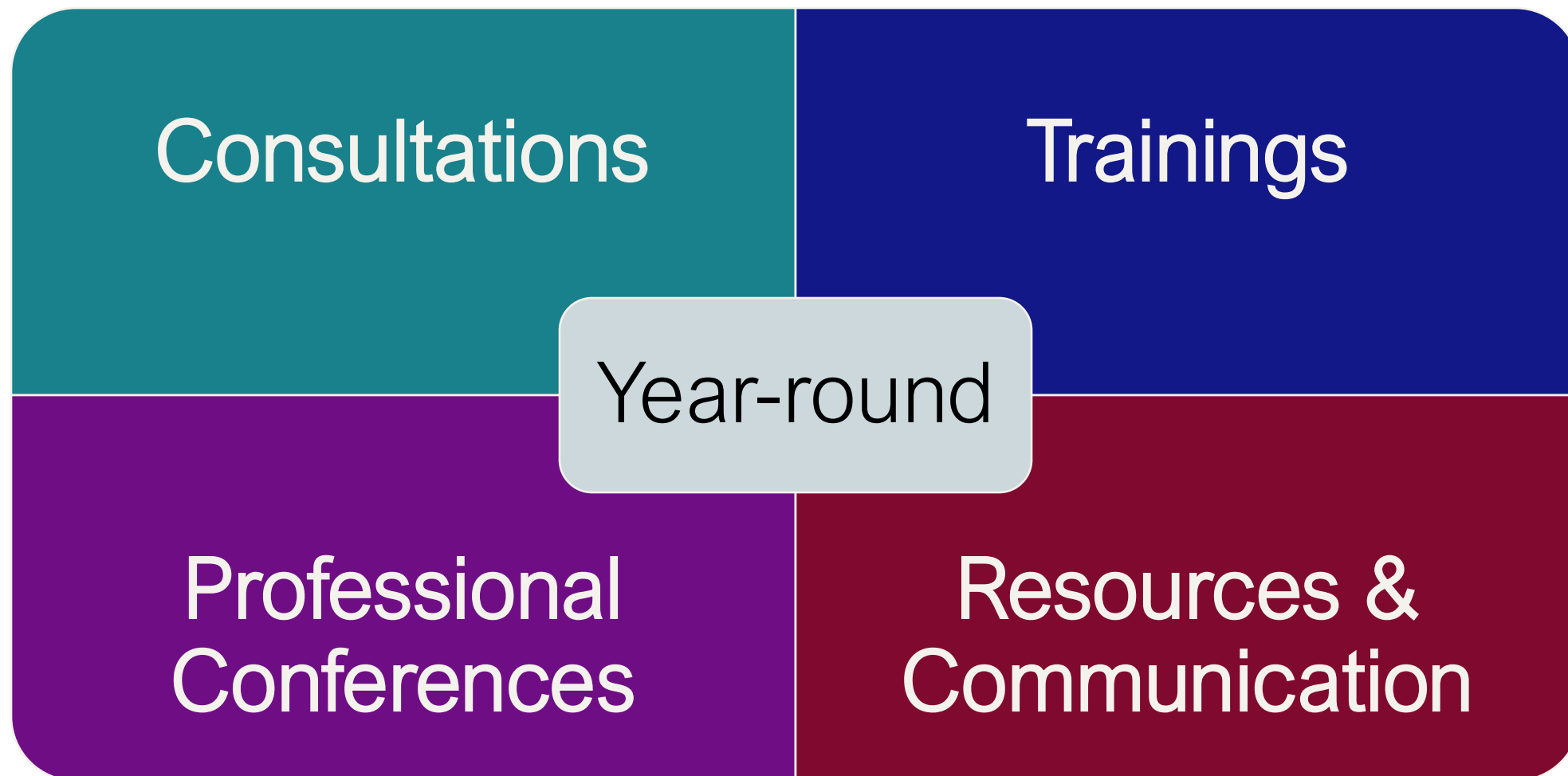
CSWE Accreditation: Services Overview

Accreditation Services

CSWE accreditation staff provide services, resources, education and training, and/or general information to the following stakeholder groups”



Accreditation Services



Stay Connected to CSWE

- CSWE Internal Database
 - Listed by program
 - Each program has 1 primary contact
 - [Practice Doctorate Program Audit Form](#)
- CSWE External Directory
 - Activated when program granted pre-candidacy status

Meet the Accreditation Team

CSWE Accreditation Team



Special thanks to Stephanie McNally and Marilyn Gentner for leading the PDP pilot operations.





Questions & Discussion