



COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

Update on CSWE Accreditation for DSW Programs

April 3, 2025



The Core Ideology of CSWE

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.

Core Purpose

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.](#)



Greet Your Facilitators



Shanéa Thomas, EdD, LICSW, CSE
Executive Director of Accreditation



Kat Gibson-Ledl, BSW, LMSW-Macro
Director of Accreditation Services



Randy Magan, PhD
Dean – Yeshiva University
BOA Member
PDP Committee Chair



Housekeeping

- QR codes in slides, *ready your phones if you wish!*
- We encourage self-care during this session!
 - If you need to take a break, step away, stretch, or get a snack, know that resources will be available post-conference on the CSWE website.



Collective Deep Breath



Agenda

- Introductions
- Purpose of Accreditation
- Meet the Accreditation Team & Writing Committee
- The Conclusion of a Journey
- Standards Available 3/31!
- Final Survey Results & PDP Expert Panel Feedback
- Next Steps for DSW Accreditation
- Questions, Comments, & Curiosities





Purpose of Accreditation



Purpose of Accreditation

The purposes of accreditation are:

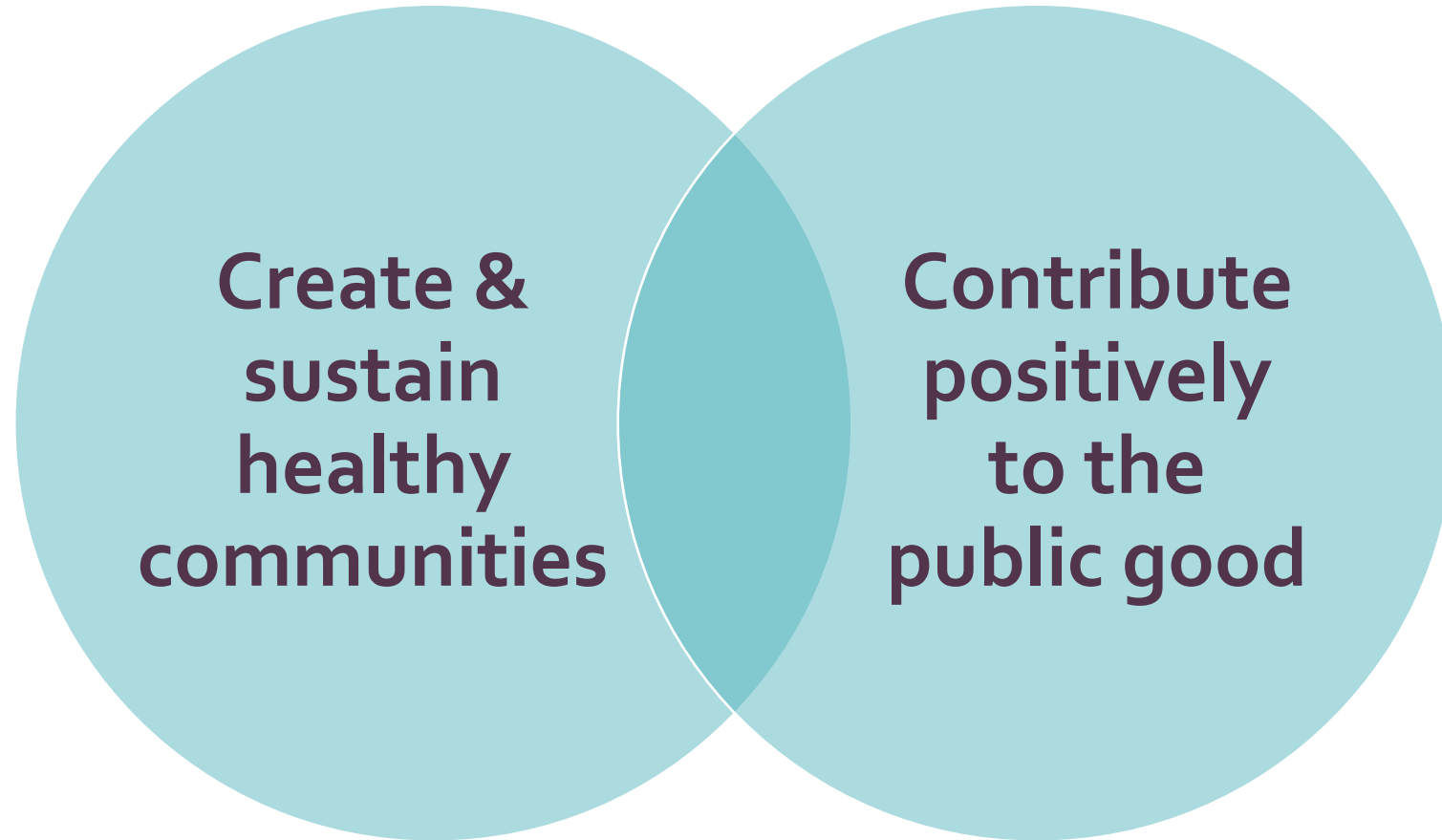
Quality assurance

Academic improvement

Professional preparation

Public accountability

Core of CSWE Accreditation





Meet the Accreditation Team & Writing Committee



CSWE Accreditation Team



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



PDP Standards Revision Committee Members

Board of Accreditation (BOA)

- Randy Magen, Chair
- James Herbert Williams
- Larry Ortiz
- Antoinette Farmer
- Tom Gregoire
- Cesar Abarca
- Katherine Perone
- Emmerentie Oliphant

Commission on Education Policy (COEP)

- Shirley Gatenio Gabel, Chair
- Karen Rice
- Mike Daley

CSWE Staff

- Shanéa Thomas
- Kat Gibson-Ledl
- Marilyn Gentner
- Megan Fujita – COEP Liaison

We give special thanks to our PDP Expert Panel of 3 DSW Students and 4 DSW Directors from across practice expertise, sizes, geographical locations, and identities.



The Conclusion of a Journey: Timeline Summary*

The timeline below is subject to change.



Hot off the Press:

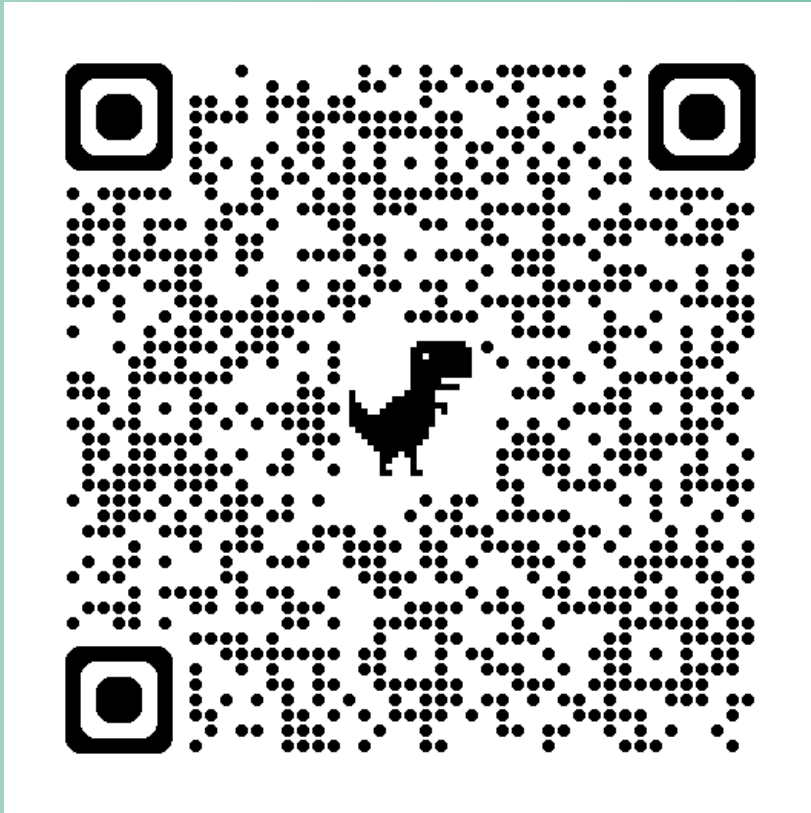
**2025 Accreditation
Standards for Practice
Doctorate Social Work
Programs**

2025
**Accreditation
Standards**

for Practice Doctorate Social Work Programs



*Advance copy of standards available on the
[CSWE website](#) (March 31, 2025)*



2025 Accreditation Standards

for Practice Doctorate Social Work Programs



Practice Doctorate Accreditation Standards



Home / Accreditation / Standards, Policies, Processes / Practice Doctorate Program Accreditation / Practice Doctorate Accreditation Standards

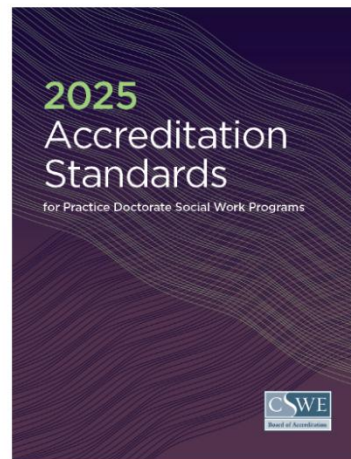
Practice Doctorate Accreditation Standards

Practice Doctorate Accreditation Toolkit

FAQs

Accreditation Pilot

2025 Accreditation Standards for Practice Doctorate Social Work Programs



The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) is pleased to announce the approval and release of the 2025 Accreditation Standards for Practice Doctorate Social Work Programs. The accreditation standards were developed and approved by the Board of Accreditation (BOA) on February 6, 2025.

[2025 Practice Doctorate Accreditation Standards*](#)

[2025 Practice Doctorate Accreditation Toolkit](#)

***Advance copy - version of document with graphic design forthcoming.**

Social Work Education Continuum



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." |



Final Survey Results & PDP Expert Panel Feedback



Final Survey Results

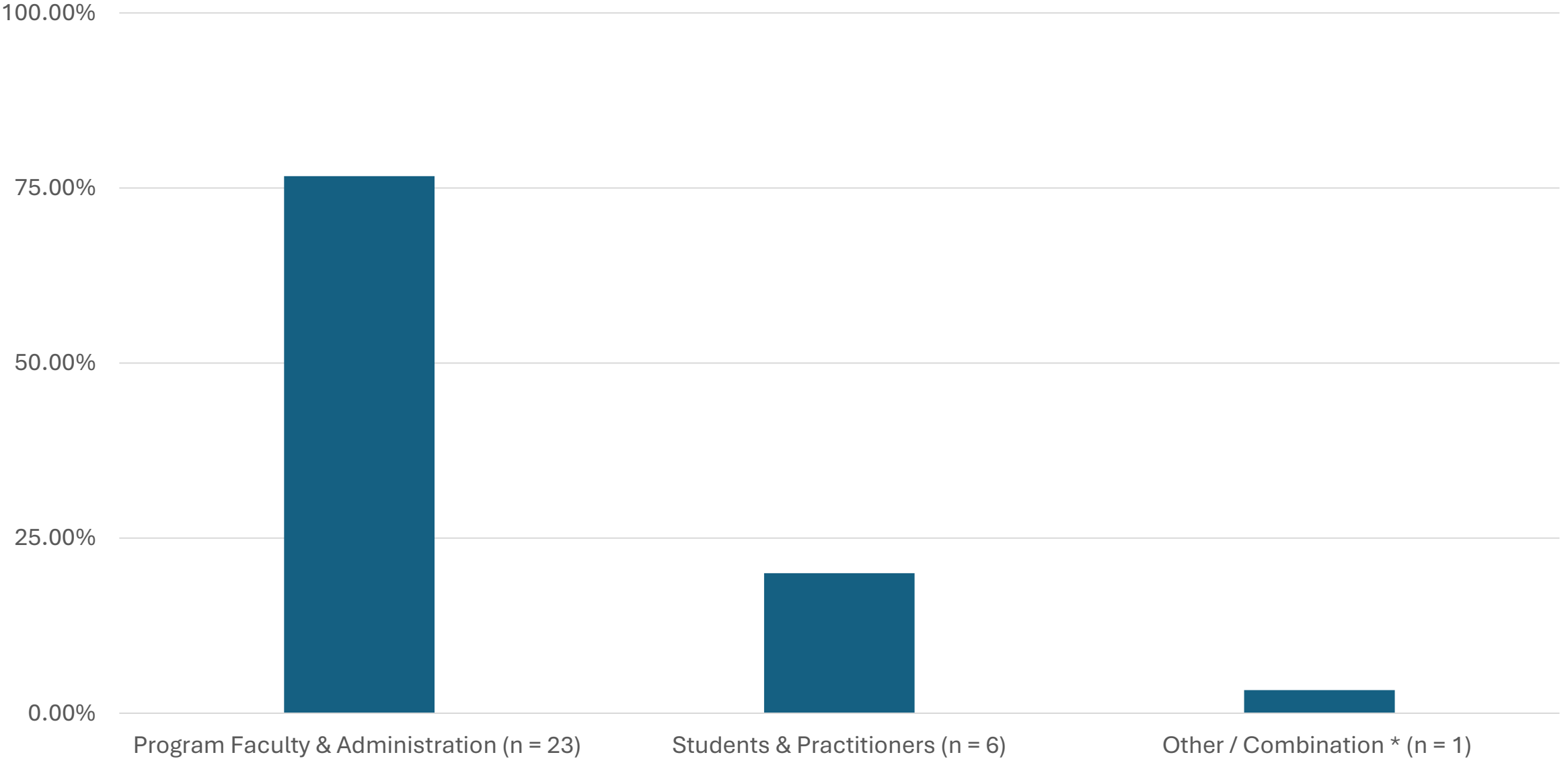
- October – November 2024

| Primary Role Group | Primary Role | N = 30 |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Program Faculty & Administration (n = 23) | Faculty | 4 |
| | Program Director | 16 |
| | Chair | 1 |
| | Dean | 2 |
| Students & Practitioners (n = 6) | Student | 5 |
| | Social Work Practitioner | 1 |
| Other / Combination * (n = 1) | Student and Social Work Practitioner | 1 |

*Note: For this category, participants chose to identify as “other” instead of one of the primary roles listed above.



Number of Participants by Primary Role Group



Updates Made to Final Standards

based on survey results & expert panel feedback

- Verbiage updates to the profession's purpose
- Clarified the intent and examples of professional practice communities' informing the explicit curriculum
- Added phrase "two or more years" of post-master's social work degree practice experience *for admission, faculty, and program director* standards
- Added "The admission process includes mechanisms for applicants to demonstrate readiness for doctoral education"
- Strengthened that mentorship must "support the individualized professional development of each practitioner-scholar"





Next Steps for DSW Accreditation



Phase 1 Accreditation Toolkit |

Released September 2024

- Candidacy Eligibility Application
- Reaffirmation & Initial Accreditation Eligibility Application
- Temporary Alternative Pathway Application
- Current Practice Doctorate Candidacy Fees and Related Expenses



Applying for Accreditation: Two Pathways

1) Traditional Pathway:
for new and developing
practice doctorate
programs

**2) Temporary Alternative
Pathway:** 1-year initial
accreditation process for
existing practice
doctorate programs



Phase 2 Accreditation Toolkit |

Released March 2025

- Accreditation Standards
- Candidacy Benchmark Grid
- ADEI Resources Webpage
- Memo to the Social Work Profession



Memo to the Social Work Profession



COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

STRENGTHENING THE PROFESSION OF SOCIAL WORK
Leadership in Research, Career Advancement, and Education

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Memo to the Social Work Profession Regarding Practice Doctorate Program Accreditation

March 31, 2025

Dear social work colleagues, clients, constituents, and public interests,

In social work education, the Council on Social Work Education's (CSWE) Board of Accreditation (BOA) is [recognized](#) by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) to accredit baccalaureate and master's social work degree programs in the United States and its territories. Since its inception in July 1952 (and its predecessor since 1919), CSWE has accredited master's programs. In 1974, CSWE began accrediting baccalaureate programs.

In recent years, the number of practice doctorate programs has grown from 5 in [2014](#) to 38 in 2024, and continues to grow according to a recent audit of social work programs conducted by CSWE. In response to questions regarding how practice doctorate degrees align within the [social work education continuum](#), CSWE partnered with social work programs, social work educators and leaders, doctoral students, health accreditors, and other constituents to conduct an environmental scan, gather data and feedback, and create [pilot accreditation standards](#) prior to launching the accreditation pilot. prior to launching the accreditation pilot.

- Announces Practice Doctorate Program Accreditation to the Social Work Profession, Public, and Interested Stakeholders
- Pilot & Expansion of Scope Request
- Social Work Education Continuum
- Retroactive Accreditation Status & Career Implications for Graduates
- Call to Action



Next Steps

the timeline below is subject to change

Spring 2025

- Phase 3 Accreditation Toolkit (final applications, templates, sample forms, etc.)
- Accreditation Policy Handbook updates
- Info sessions
- Apply for CHEA expansion of scope

Summer 2025

- Info sessions
- Interpretation Guide
- Waiver-eligible standards
- Training

August 2025

- Accreditation services launched
- Accepting applications

October 2025

- CHEA decision on expansion of scope



FAQs (so far...)

1. When can our program apply for accreditation?

- August 1, 2025 or thereafter

2. Can I call our BSW/MSW accreditation specialist to discuss DSW accreditation?

- No, please email Kat at kgibson@cswe.org with any questions.
- At this time, consultation services are not available while the team works diligently on designing and launching critical application materials.
- Info sessions, training, and services are forthcoming!



FAQs (so far...)

3. Is the program director credentials standard waiver-eligible?
 - Waiver-eligible standards are currently under discussion.
 - The BOA will likely make decisions/update the waiver policy after its June 2025 meeting.
 - This standard is under compassionate consideration since accreditation is "meeting the market" and all recognize program directors are currently employed at DSW programs with a range of doctoral degrees.

4. For the Temporary Alternative Pathway, is a full self-study due with the application?
 - Yes, because programs seeking this pathway move from candidacy to initial accreditation within 1-year by demonstrating compliance with all standards.





COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

Thank You!

Questions,
Comments, &
Curiosities?



ADEI Webpage

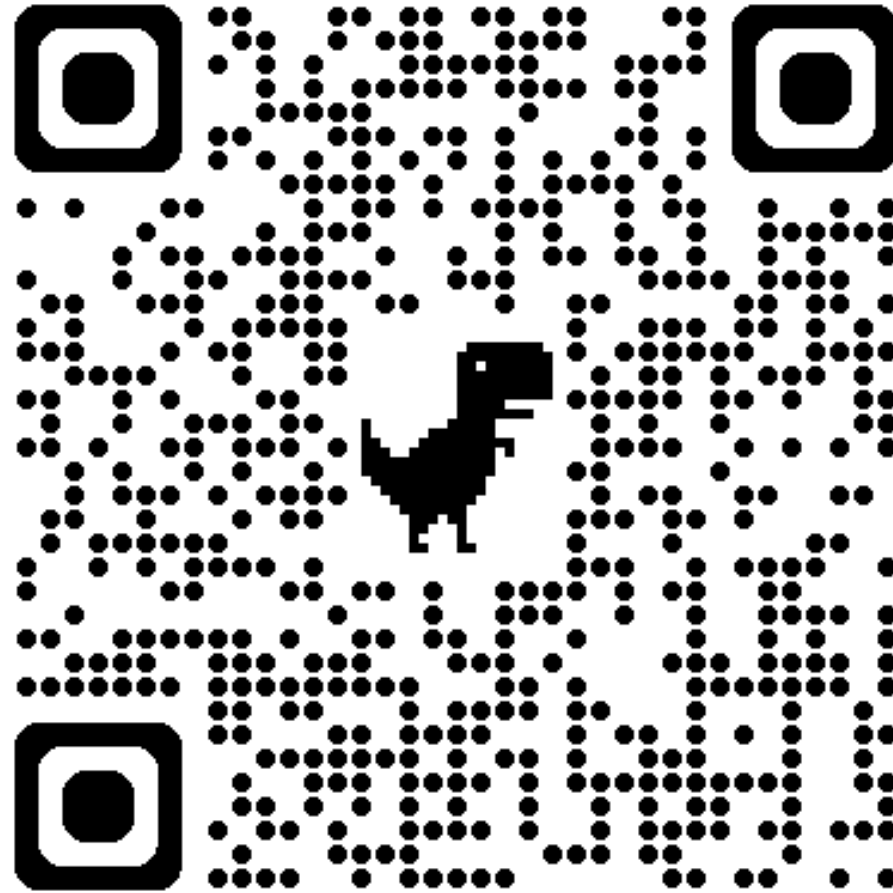
CSWE has launched an ADEI webpage with centralized information!

- [Membership login](#) credentials will be required to access the webpage
- Only accessible to program primary contacts and members
 - Simply Join CSWE/Link to a Program
- Webpage available to accredited, candidate, applicant, and practice doctorate programs



Membership Login Page

<https://membership.cswe.org/ADEI-Resources>



Members-only View

membership.cswe.org/Membership/userId/6410



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Katie Gibson-Ledl | Logout



Site Visitor Resources

ADEI Resources

Membership

↓ Join

Link to Program / Join CSWE

Webpage Content

1. Commitment to Partnership & Support
2. Directives & Legal Consultation
3. Legislation Tracking Resources
4. CSWE Statements
5. CHEA Statement
6. Social Work Profession's Purpose
7. Why DEI in Accreditation Standards?
8. Program Context & Flexibility of Standards
9. 2022 EPAS ADEI Resources
10. Waivers to Accreditation Standards
11. Waivers/Exemptions within Institutions
12. Requesting an Accreditation Review Extension



Webpage Content

13. Accreditation Visits & DEI Content
14. DEI Language Restrictions
15. Teaching & Assessing DEI
16. Publicly Posting Competency Data
17. Funding for DEI Initiatives & Activities
18. Extra/Co-curricular Mandatory DEI Trainings
19. DEI Offices & Staff
20. Diversity Statements
21. Identity-based Admissions
22. Programs/Options on Military Bases or Other Federal Locations
23. Federally-funded Field Placement Sites
24. Complaints

