



CSWE Accreditation Guidance for Programs Affected by Natural Disasters

CSWE and its Department of Social Work Accreditation extend our concern for the well-being of the students, faculty members, and staff of the social work programs and communities affected. The safety of students, educators, social workers, and their clients and communities is paramount to CSWE and its Board of Accreditation (BOA).

In response to the damage caused, please note the following information regarding field education and accreditation visits.

Field Education

- While programs may have the capacity to operate virtually or in a hybrid capacity, we understand many institutions and field education sites halt operations due to the impact of natural disasters.
- As institutions and field sites reopen, BOA interpretation allows “in-person” contact in field settings to be accomplished through digital technologies (e.g., telehealth, telework, phone contact with colleagues, clients, and constituents, remote access to platforms and projects). There is neither a minimum requirement regarding in-person contact hours nor a maximum regarding virtual contact hours.
- At the discretion of the social work program, remote field activity, field supervision, and field seminar hours, may be counted toward the accrual of field hours. Such activities should prepare students for the appropriate practice level (i.e., generalist or specialized) and demonstration of the social work competencies and behaviors.

Site Visits and Candidacy Visits

- Site visits and candidacy visits scheduled for programs affected by natural disasters may be rescheduled. Programs and site visitors are encouraged to contact our [accreditation volunteer coordinator](#) for information about rescheduling.
- Additional information is available in the following policies of the [Accreditation Policy Handbook](#):
 - 5.9 Candidacy Visits 1, 2, & 3
 - 6.6 Site Visit
- Please also visit our [Site Visitor Resources](#) webpage, which includes a [Guidelines & Tips for Virtual Visits](#) resource.

Please check the [Accreditation](#) webpage for further updates. Specific questions may be directed to your program’s CSWE [accreditation specialist](#).