



COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

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

2022 EPAS Candidacy Process: 3-year Benchmark Grid
version 12.2024

All programs are required to include **AS 1.0.1** and **AS 1.0.2**, and master's programs are required to include **AS M3.2.1**, in Benchmark 2 materials for programs under review for a Benchmark 2 decision on the **February 2026 BOA meeting agenda and thereafter**. Updates **highlighted** below.

The *Candidacy Benchmark Grid* on the following pages illustrates which elements of the 2022 Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) social work education programs submit to achieve each candidacy benchmark.

Note: This grid is for use by programs seeking candidacy and initial accreditation only.

The **Approved to Proceed to the next benchmark columns** list which accreditation standards must be approved by CSWE-BOA to proceed to the next benchmark and candidacy visit. Once CSWE-BOA approves the program's responses to the accreditation standards at each benchmark, the program will proceed to the next benchmark.

The **Developmental columns**, shaded gray, lists which accreditation standards are still under development when submitted at each benchmark. Programs must provide full narrative responses to all developmental standards so the candidacy visitor can provide feedback on how to improve the program's responses to these standards at each benchmark. Developmental standards are then reviewed for approval at the next benchmark.

The **Compliance column** at Benchmark 3/Initial Accreditation indicates that all accreditation standards will be evaluated to determine compliance with the EPAS, culminating in a complete Initial Accreditation self-study.

The *Benchmark 1* consists of:

- Volume 1: Responses to approval standards, followed by standards in development
- Volume 2: Syllabi in development
- Volume 3: *Student Handbook* and *Field Manual* in development

The *Benchmark 2* consists of:

- Volume 1: Responses to approval standards, followed by standards in development
- Volume 2: Syllabi
- Volume 3: *Student Handbook* and *Field Manual*

The *Benchmark 3 / Initial Accreditation Self-Study* consists of:

- Volume 1: Responses to all EPAS standards
- Volume 2: Syllabi
- Volume 3: *Student Handbook* and *Field Manual*

Candidacy Process: 3-year Benchmark Grid

2022 EPAS Standard	Candidacy Visit 1 for Benchmark 1		Candidacy Visit 2 for Benchmark 2		Candidacy Visit 3 for Benchmark 3 / Initial Accreditation
	Approved to Proceed to Benchmark 2	Developmental	Approved to Proceed to Benchmark 3	Developmental	All EPAS Evaluated for Compliance
1 – Program Mission	AS 1.0.1 AS 1.0.2		AS 1.0.1 AS 1.0.2		AS 1.0.1 AS 1.0.2
2 – Anti-racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ADEI)		AS 2.0.1 AS 2.0.2	AS 2.0.1 AS 2.0.2		AS 2.0.1 AS 2.0.2
3 – Explicit Curriculum 3.1 – Generalist Practice	AS 3.1.1	AS 3.1.2 Syllabi	AS 3.1.2 Syllabi		AS 3.1.1 AS 3.1.2 Syllabi
M3.2 – Specialized Practice	AS M3.2.1 AS M3.2.2 AS M3.2.3	AS M3.2.4 Syllabi	AS M3.2.1 AS M3.2.4 Syllabi		AS M3.2.1 AS M3.2.2 AS M3.2.3 AS M3.2.4 Syllabi
3.3 – Field Education		AS 3.3.1 AS M3.3.2 AS 3.3.3 AS 3.3.4 AS 3.3.5 AS B3.3.6 AS M3.3.6 AS 3.3.7 Field Manual	AS 3.3.1 AS M3.3.2 AS 3.3.3 AS 3.3.4 AS 3.3.5 AS B3.3.6 AS M3.3.6 AS 3.3.7 Field Manual		AS 3.3.1 AS M3.3.2 AS 3.3.3 AS 3.3.4 AS 3.3.5 AS B3.3.6 AS M3.3.6 AS 3.3.7 Field Manual
4 – Implicit Curriculum 4.1 – Student Development – Admission	AS 4.1.1 AS B4.1.2 AS M4.1.2 AS M4.1.3 AS 4.1.4 AS 4.1.5				AS 4.1.1 AS B4.1.2 AS M4.1.2 AS M4.1.3 AS 4.1.4 AS 4.1.5
4.1 – Student Development – Advisement, Retention, and Termination		AS 4.1.6 AS 4.1.7	AS 4.1.6 AS 4.1.7		AS 4.1.6 AS 4.1.7
4.1 – Student Development – Student Participation		AS 4.1.8 Student Handbook	AS 4.1.8 Student Handbook		AS 4.1.8 Student Handbook

Candidacy Process: 3-year Benchmark Grid

2022 EPAS Standard	Candidacy Visit 1 for Benchmark 1		Candidacy Visit 2 for Benchmark 2		Candidacy Visit 3 for Benchmark 3 / Initial Accreditation
	Approved to Proceed to Benchmark 2	Developmental	Approved to Proceed to Benchmark 3	Developmental	All EPAS Evaluated for Compliance
4.2 – Faculty	AS B4.2.1 AS M4.2.1 (2 faculty)	AS 4.2.2 AS B4.2.3 AS M4.2.3	AS B4.2.1 AS M4.2.1 (3 faculty)	AS 4.2.2 AS B4.2.3 AS M4.2.3	AS B4.2.1 AS M4.2.1 (4 faculty) AS 4.2.2 AS B4.2.3 AS M4.2.3
4.3 – Administrative and Governance Structure	AS 4.3.4(a) AS B4.3.4(b) AS M4.3.4(b) AS B4.3.4(c) AS M4.3.4(c) AS 4.3.5(a) AS B4.3.5(b) AS M4.3.5(b) AS B4.3.5(c) AS M4.3.5(c)	AS 4.3.1 AS 4.3.2 AS 4.3.3 AS 4.3.6	AS 4.3.4(a) AS B4.3.4(b) AS M4.3.4(b) AS B4.3.4(c) AS M4.3.4(c) AS 4.3.5(a) AS B4.3.5(b) AS M4.3.5(b) AS B4.3.5(c) AS M4.3.5(c)	AS 4.3.1 AS 4.3.2 AS 4.3.3 AS 4.3.6	AS 4.3.1 AS 4.3.2 AS 4.3.3 AS 4.3.4(a) AS B4.3.4(b) AS M4.3.4(b) AS B4.3.4(c) AS M4.3.4(c) AS 4.3.5(a) AS B4.3.5(b) AS M4.3.5(b) AS B4.3.5(c) AS M4.3.5(c) AS 4.3.6
4.4 – Resources	AS 4.4.1 AS 4.4.4 AS 4.4.5	AS 4.4.2 AS 4.4.3	AS 4.4.2 AS 4.4.3		AS 4.4.1 AS 4.4.2 AS 4.4.3 AS 4.4.4 AS 4.4.5
5 – Assessment		AS 5.0.1(a) AS 5.0.1(b) AS 5.0.1(c) (process only) AS 5.0.1(d) AS 5.0.2(a) AS 5.0.2(b) AS 5.0.3	AS 5.0.1(a) AS 5.0.1(c) (process only) AS 5.0.2(a)	AS 5.0.1(b) AS 5.0.1(c) (complete) AS 5.0.1(d) AS 5.0.2(b) AS 5.0.3	AS 5.0.1(a) AS 5.0.1(b) AS 5.0.1(c) (complete) AS 5.0.1(d) AS 5.0.2(a) AS 5.0.2(b) AS 5.0.3