



COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

Fellowship Review Committee Information Session

March 13, 2026



Welcome to the CSWE Fellowship Review Committee (FRC) Information Session!

Chair of the FRC:

- Christopher J. Guenthner, DSW, LCSW, BCD, LTC, MS

Department of Social Work Accreditation Staff

- Stephanie McNally, Fellowship Accreditation Manager
- Collina Cooke, Executive Director of Accreditation



Housekeeping

- We encourage self-care during this session!
 - Stand
 - Take a break
 - Step away
 - Stretch
 - Hydrate
 - Snack



Agenda

1. Pillars of CSWE
2. Introduction to post-master's social work fellowship accreditation
3. FRC Member Qualifications and Application
4. FRC Member Onboarding and Training
5. Q&A



Council on Social Work Education

Accreditor

- Board of Accreditation
 - Confers accreditation decisions
- Reaffirmation Site Visitors
- Fellowship Review Committee
- Staff (Department of Social Work Accreditation)
- Focus on **compliance** with accreditation standards

Education Association

- Board of Directors
 - Governs CSWE
- National Nominating Committee
- Commissions and Councils
- CSWE membership
- Student & Faculty Funding Opportunities
- Centers & Initiatives
- Focus on **best practices** and resources for SW education

CSWE Context: Two Pillars

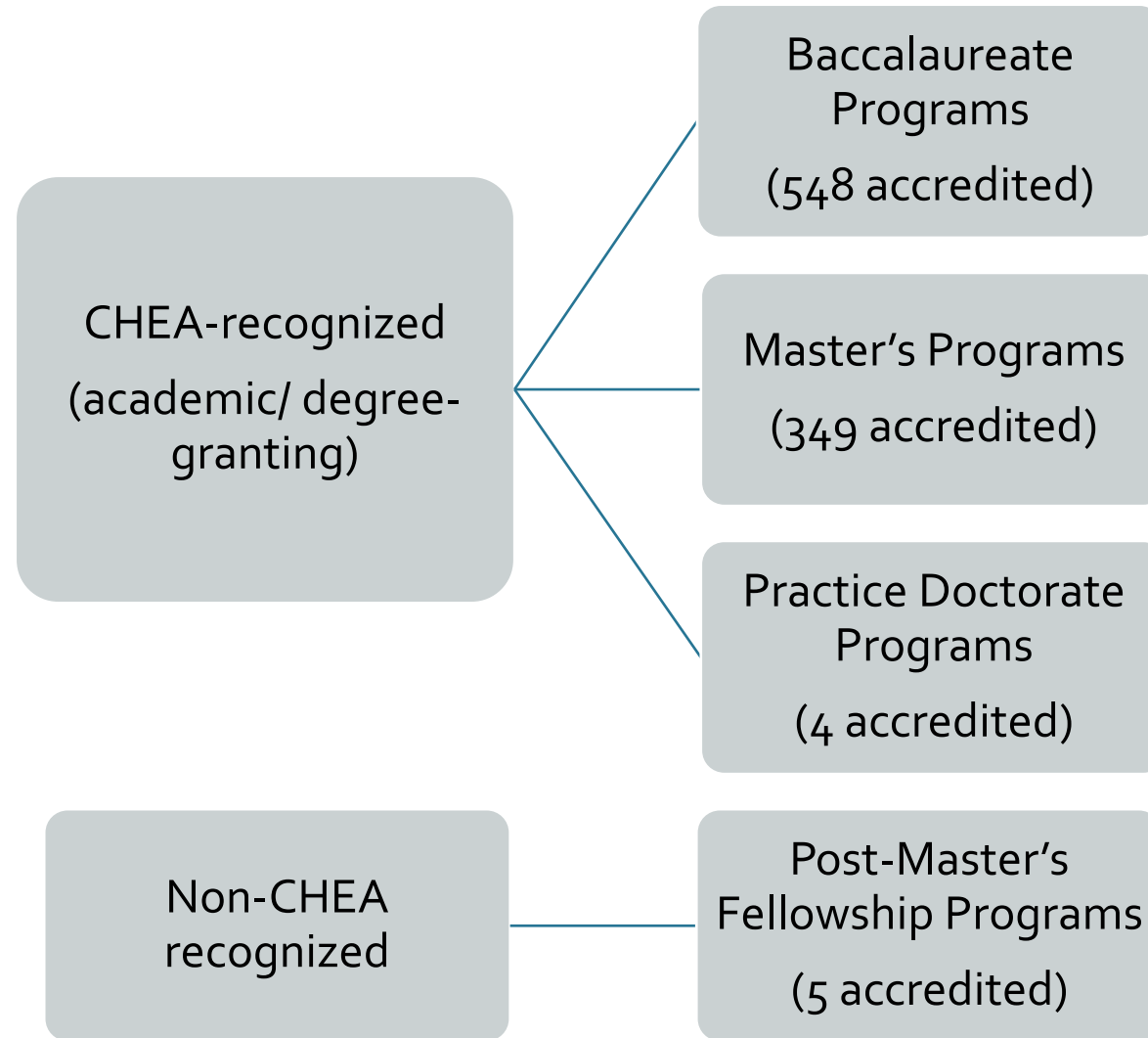
About Accreditation

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



Resource: [Directory of Accredited Programs](#) & [Directory of Accredited Fellowship Programs](#)



About Post-MSW Fellowships

Post-master's
practice-based
training program

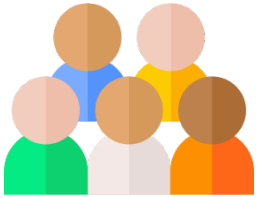
Not tied to degree
programs in
colleges and
universities

Hosted by sites
offering social work
services

Normally 1 or 2
years in length

Advance the knowledge
and skills of social work
practitioners in a
focused area of practice

Fellowship Review Committee (FRC)



8-10 social work educators and practitioners serve on the FRC to ensure a **peer-review process**.

The FRC is responsible for:

- Meeting virtually 3 times year
- reviewing post-MSW fellowship accreditation documents
- conducting fellowship site visits
- making accreditation recommendations to the CSWE Board of Accreditation (BOA)

The BOA considers FRC recommendations, ratifies accreditation decisions, and has sole authority as the final arbiter of compliance.



FRC Member Meeting Responsibilities



Members attend FRC meetings three times per year (January, May, September)



Review 2-3 program documents per review cycle



Participate in board group discussions about accreditation matters




Receive updates and training from CSWE staff




FRC Meetings are virtual


FRC Member Visit Responsibilities


 **Frequency:** Each FRC member may conduct up to 2 site visits per year

 **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.

 **All fellowship visits are conducted in-person and require travel. Visit expenses are reimbursed by CSWE.**

FRC Member Responsibilities Timeline

PROCESS	CYCLE 1				CYCLE 2				CYCLE 3			
	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June
Document Review	■				■				■			
FRC Meetings			■				■				■	
Fellowship Site Visits (2/year)	■											



Getting Started

Eligibility & Application



Eligibility

FRC members are:

Social work practitioners and/or educators with fellowship education experience.

This ensures a peer-review based accreditation process for these practice-based fellowship programs



Application



Applicants who are eligible and interested must complete the application through the online application portal.

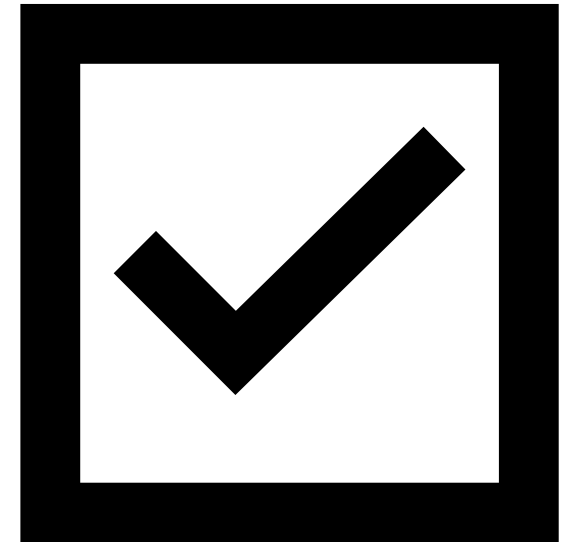
Applications are open April 1 – April 30

Within the application portal, applicants will:

- respond to a brief set of questions (including a statement of interest);
- upload CV; and
- confirm commitment to completing FRC tasks

Appointment

- CSWE accreditation staff evaluate applications 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. FRC members are appointed to terms of 3-year terms of service (with terms starting July 1), with the option to renew their appointment for a total of two terms.

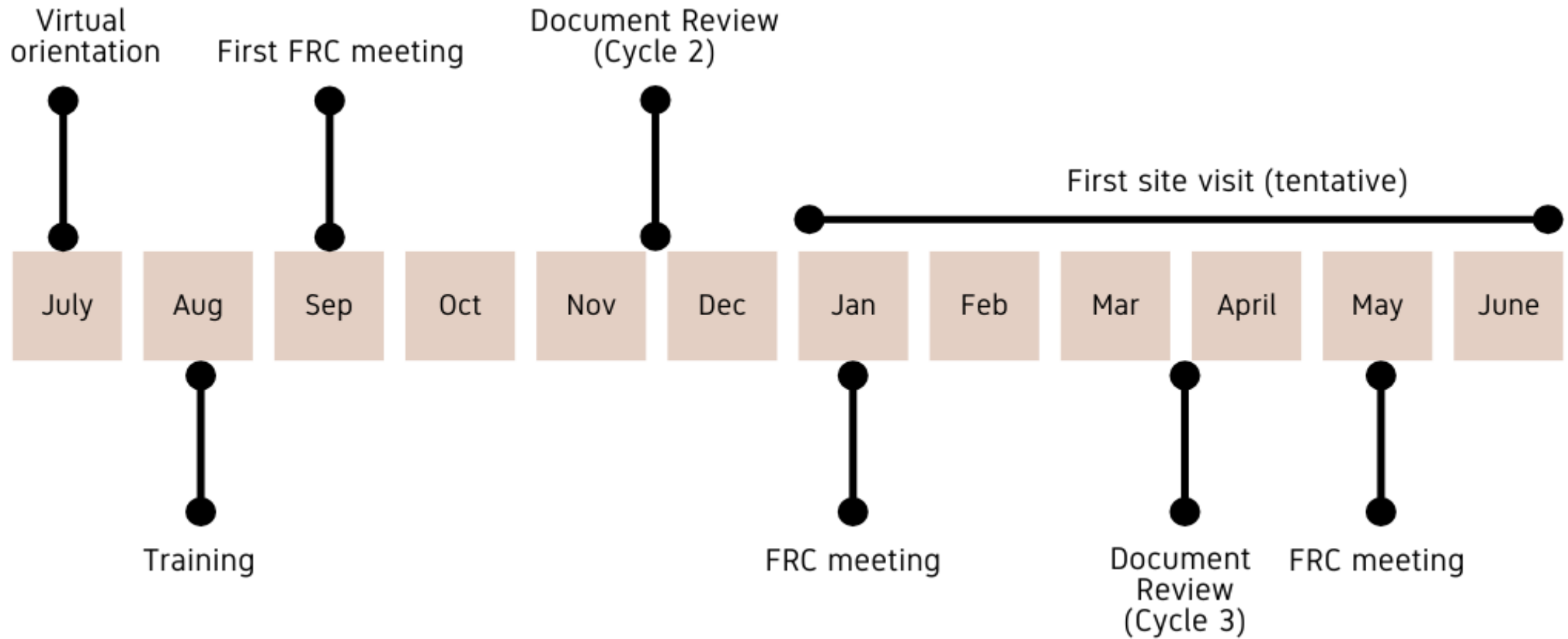


Onboarding & Training

- If appointed, you will be appointed to serve on the FRC from July 1, 2026-June 30, 2029
- You can anticipate to participate in the following onboarding activities:
 - Attend a virtual orientation in July 2026
 - Complete training in August 2026
 - Self-Study Review Training
 - Site Visit Training
 - Accreditation Recommendation Process Training
 - Begin attending FRC meetings starting September 2026
 - Begin reviewing program materials in late 2026
 - Begin conducting site visits in 2027



FRC First Year Timeline



Perks of Becoming a CSWE FRC Member

- 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



Next Steps

Applications are open April 1 – April 30

1. Visit cswe.org/accreditationvolunteers
2. Click link to apply



Questions?



ADVOCATE

Any questions or concerns, please contact:

Stephanie McNally (she/her)

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Thank you!



COLLABORATE