



COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

Accreditation Updates Webinar

February 2026



Welcome

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE



MISSION



VISION



VALUES

Purpose

- 3x per year after each Board of Accreditation (BOA) meeting
- Timely updates
- Q&A

Agenda

- Land Acknowledgement
- Staff Introductions
- Accreditation Updates
 - Newsletter
- Q&A



Land Acknowledgement

11 tribes in Alexandria

- Mattaponi
- Pamunkey
- Chickahominy
- Eastern Chickahominy
- Rappahannock
- Upper Mattaponi
- Nansemond
- Monacan
- Cheroenhaka
- Nottoway
- Nottoway Patawomeck

CSWE acknowledges that its office is located on ancestral lands of Indigenous Peoples throughout the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, and territories. This is true of the cities where CSWE events occur and the areas where council staff and volunteers reside.

Indigenous Peoples had and continue to have extended networks of relatives that include human and nonhuman life as well as the seen and the unseen across diverse geopolitical and ecological spaces. Sacred ties to the land and water distinguish Indigenous Peoples from all other people or cultures. Despite the genocide, relocation, and removal of millions of Indigenous Peoples from those areas, ties to these networks and lands have persevered through centuries of oppression, colonization, appropriation, and other efforts to erase these cultures.

CSWE's office is in Alexandria, Virginia, and we honor the **11 state-recognized ancestral tribes**. Our organization is committed to achieving social justice and equity for Indigenous Peoples in ways that respect their ancient cultures and sovereign rights and that address a legacy of colonization and oppression. Social work education strives to prepare tomorrow's practitioners to effect social change for all people. With humility, we recognize and respect all Indigenous Peoples and their ties to the land. The CSWE, the Indigenous and Tribal Social Work Educators Association, and the Commission on Diversity and Social & Economic Justice have collaborated on this Land Acknowledgment Statement to raise awareness of the global truth and reconciliation movement addressing historical and systemic issues of Indigenous Peoples.



Accreditation Leadership Team



Collina D. Cooke, PhD, LCSW
Executive Director of
Accreditation



**Katie Gibson-Ledl, BSW,
LMSW-Macro**
Director of Accreditation
Services



CSWE Leadership Team



Halaevalu Vakalahi,
PhD, MSW, Med
President & CEO



Megan Fujita, PhD, MSW
Vice President of Education



Tajuana Smith, MBA
Vice President of
Administration and
Operations



Matt Hooper
Vice President of
Communications and
Membership





COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

Accreditation Newsletter Updates

Accreditation Newsletter Archive

- Posted publicly 3-4 months after each BOA meeting:

BOA Meeting	Newsletter Published
February	April/May
June	August/September
October	December/January

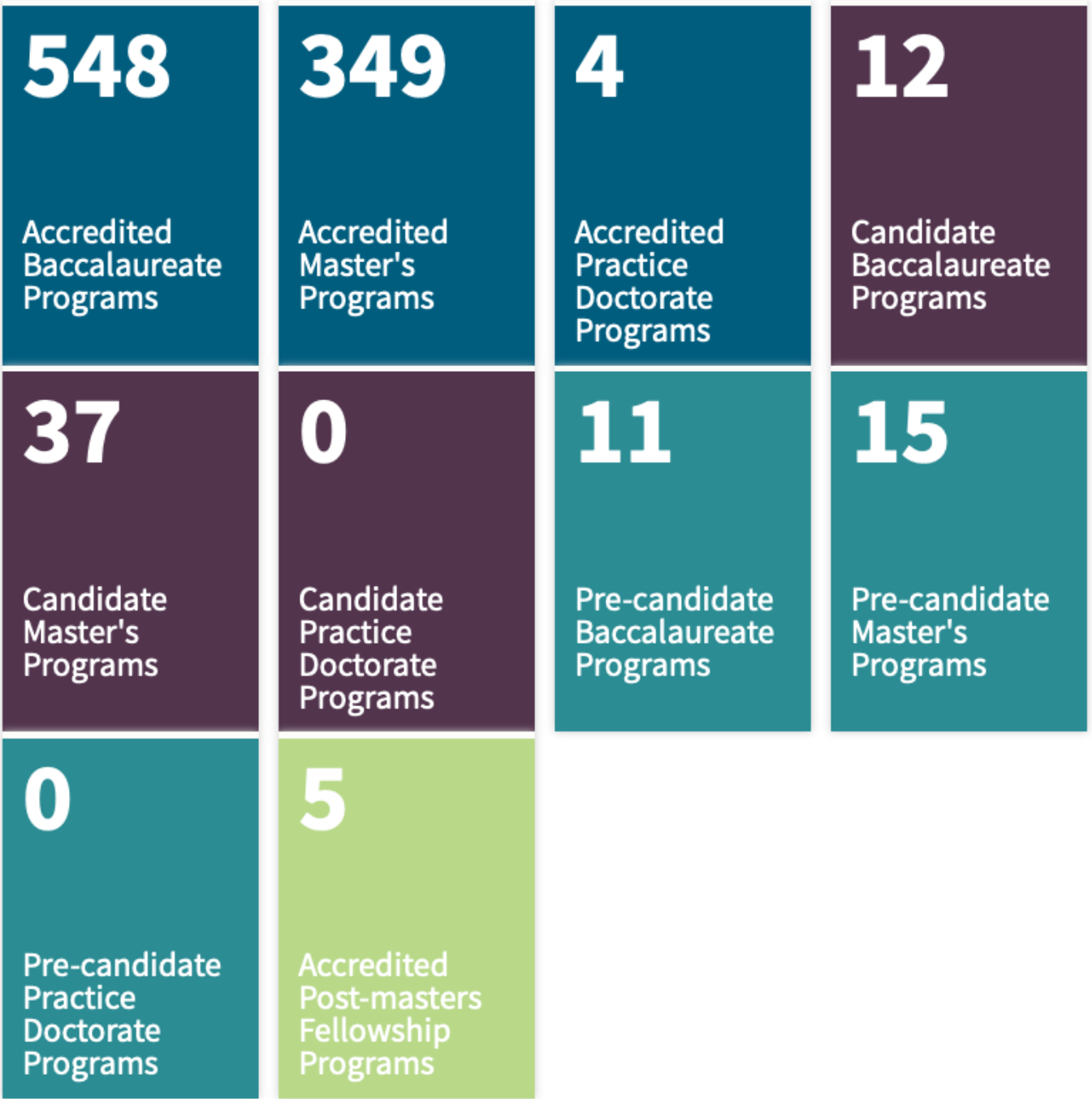


BOA Decisions

- Posted publicly 30-days after each BOA meeting:

BOA Meeting	Decisions Posted
February	March
June	July
October	November





**Total Programs:
981**

(as of October 2025)





COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

ADEI Updates

Statement



CSWE Releases Additional Guidance on Language Pertaining to 2022 EPAS



Social Work Education

Social education programs hold a steadfast “commitment to ensuring that social work graduates across the country are educated at the **highest professional standard**, including prioritization of **fair treatment** and **access**, and the creation of environments where all **individuals and groups are engaged, respected, valued, and supported**. Graduates from all accredited social work programs must understand how **systems, policies, and practices influence individual and community outcomes** and be prepared to **lead** with social work **knowledge, skill, and integrity**.”

Excerpt from [*CSWE Releases Additional Guidance on Language Pertaining to 2022 EPAS*](#), January 22, 2026



New Guidance: Adapting Competency Language

- Baccalaureate and master's programs in states with restrictive legislation may:

1

- Identify the **state legislation** that prohibits or restricts ADEI-related content

2

- Identify the specific **competency and behavior language** that must be adapted

3

- Explain **how curricula aligns** with the competencies and behaviors for generalist and specialized practice



Standards by Program Level

Baccalaureate & Master's

- **AS 2.0.1:** Explicit curriculum ADEI efforts
- **AS 2.0.2:** Implicit curriculum ADEI efforts
- **AS 3.1.1:** Generalist practice competencies
- **AS M3.2.1:** Specialized practice competencies
- **AS 5.0.2(a):** ADEI implicit curriculum assessment plan

Practice Doctorate

- **AS D2.0.1:** Explicit curriculum ADEI efforts
- **AS D2.0.2:** Implicit curriculum ADEI efforts
- **AS D5.0.2(a):** ADEI implicit curriculum assessment plan



New Guidance:

Alternative Implicit Curriculum Assessment Plan

- All programs in states with restrictive legislation may:

Submit a plan to assess the program's supportive learning environment (e.g., educational culture of fairness, openness, and respect, and/or sense of belonging, etc.)



Interpretation Guides

- 2022 EPAS and PDP interpretation guides are updated to 1) reflect the new guidance, and 2) match the templates

Sources:

- [2022 EPAS Interpretation Guide](#)
- [PDP Interpretation Guide](#)

ADEI Members-only Webpage

- In addition to the updated templates and interpretation guides:



Website: www.membership.cswe.org/ADEI-Resources

To access the webpage, use this [How-To guide](#)



Consultations for 1-on-1 Dialogue & Support

- Available to primary contacts
- Schedule a consultation with your program's **CSWE accreditation specialist**
- Discuss questions, concerns, or directives not addressed on the ADEI webpage





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Resource Updates

DSW Student & Alumni Toolkit

www.cswe.org/PD/alumnitoolkit

For practice doctorate students graduating from programs not (currently) accredited by CSWE

Step 1: Search in the CSWE Directory of Accredited Programs

Step 2: Review the Memo to the Social Work Profession

Step 3: Read our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Step 4: Research Licensure Implications

Step 5: Explore Implications for Employment in Academia

Step 6: Insert Language on Your Cover Letters or Applications



Featured Resource: Past Presentations Catalog

www.cswe.org/accreditationtraining



Recent presentations include:

- 2022 EPAS and ADEI
- 2022 EPAS Assessment Essentials
- Sharing Your Program's Story: Learning from 2022 EPAS BOA Review Trends
- Successful Benchmark 1 Strategies for New BSW & MSW Programs
- Practice Doctorate Program Accreditation Info Session
- CSWE Accreditation Updates Webinar (November 2025)





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Services & Training Updates

BPD Annual Conference



BPD

The Association of Baccalaureate
Social Work Program Directors

Join us February 25-28, 2026
in New Orleans, LA at the
[BPD Annual Conference!](#)



NEW ORLEANS





2022 EPAS Accreditation Trainings Expanded

Baccalaureate and master's trainings include:

- Applicant
- Pre-Candidate
- Candidate
- Accredited

Hybrid training model includes:

- Self-paced online learning modules via the [CSWE Learning Academy](#)
- Live drop-in Q&A sessions via Zoom

Trainings are at no additional cost and allow [unlimited access for social work educators.](#)



Upcoming Live Drop-in Q&A Sessions

Accredited

- Thursday, March 26, 2026
- 1:00pm-2:30pm ET
- [Register via the Learning Academy](#)

Pre/Candidate

- Tuesday, March 24, 2026
- 1:00pm-2:30pm ET
- [Register via the Learning Academy](#)



Practice Doctorate Program Accreditation Trainings

→ [Download](#) (9) slide decks

Reminder! All programs pursuing the [Temporary Alternative Pathway](#) are required to complete training prior to applying.

Haven't completed the required training yet? Email the [Accreditation Training Manager](#) for options.



Drop-in Group Consultations



Did you know? We provide monthly drop-in group consultations on the following topics:

- **New Baccalaureate & Master's Program Applicants**
- **New Practice Doctorate Program Applicants | Traditional 3-year Pathway**
- **New Practice Doctorate Program Applicants | Temporary Alternative 1-year Pathway**
- **Substantive Change Process**





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Accreditation Initiatives Updates

International Degree Review



- Updated [Application Instructions webpage](#)
 - **Step 1:** Screening Form, Screening Form Fee, and Approval of the Screening Form
 - **Step 2:** Recognition Application, Recognition Application Fee, and Supporting Documents
- Application materials now reflect the 2022 EPAS.

Did you know? CSWE and the Canadian social work accreditor have degree reciprocity between the United States and Canada via a [Memorandum of Understanding](#).



Post-Master's Fellowship Accreditation

- Interest continues to grow!
- The first [accredited fellowship program](#) will be reviewed for their first reaffirmation in June 2026.
- Learn more about [fellowship accreditation](#).



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Interpretation Guide Updates

Interpretive Guidance Updates

2022 EPAS

- Copied/pasted nine generalist social work competencies (pgs., 20-23)
- ADEI guidance (pgs., 24, 30, 36-37, 45, 145, 152, 156-157, 158-159, 162)
- Paid/unpaid time off and required field hours (pg., 55)
- Self-care plans and required field hours (pg., 55)

Additional clarifications are **highlighted** in the [Interpretation Guide](#).



Accreditation Standards 3.3.4 & 3.3.5 | Responsibility for Locating Field Settings

- Students cannot be solely responsible for locating their own field placement, yet they can assist.
- While students may have an active role, programs cannot place undue burden or hardship on a student, requiring them to self-identify a field setting without program assistance.
- If a field setting becomes unable to facilitate student learning, programs must locate an alternative qualified field setting for any affected students.

Review [pgs. 57-58, 60-61](#) for more information.



Accreditation Standards B/M3.3.6 | Responsibility for Locating Field Instructors/Alternatives

- Students cannot be solely responsible for locating their own field instructor, yet they can assist.
- While students may have an active role, programs cannot place undue burden or hardship on a student, requiring them to self-identify a field instructor without program assistance.
- If a field instructor becomes unable to facilitate student learning, programs must locate an alternative qualified field instructor for any affected students.

Review [pgs. 65, 68-69](#) for more information.



Interpretive Guidance Updates

2025 Practice Doctorate Accreditation Standards

- ADEI guidance (pg., 81)
- Programs can select their own terminology to describe ADEI (pgs., 12, 15)
- Added more ADEI explicit and implicit curriculum effort examples (pgs., 12-14, 15)

Additional clarifications are **highlighted** in the [Interpretation Guide](#).





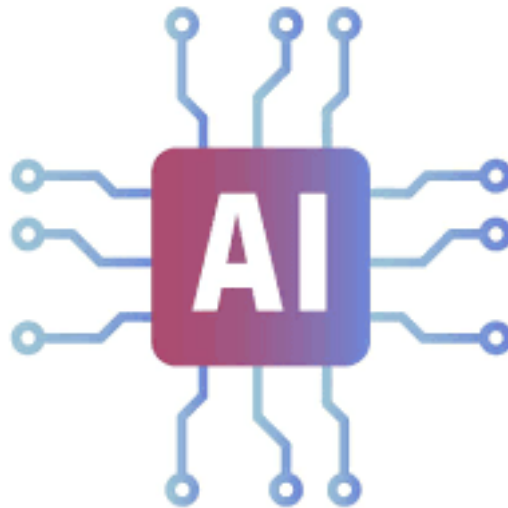
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Policy & Procedure Updates

Notable Policy Updates

1.9 Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

This policy directs accreditation staff and volunteers in the ethical use of AI when conducting accreditation reviews, visits, and business (pgs., 8-10).



Additional Policy Updates

- BOA committees (pgs. 20-23)
- Candidacy eligibility fees (pg., 36).
- Eligibility application due dates (pg., 64)
- Early report submission (pg., 65)
- Annual accreditation record audit (pg., 81)
- Withdrawal of candidacy status (pg., 113)

Additional clarifications are **highlighted** in the [Accreditation Policy Handbook](#).



COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

Board of Accreditation (BOA)
Department of Social Work Accreditation (DOSWA)

ACCREDITATION POLICY HANDBOOK

for Baccalaureate, Master's, and Practice Doctorate Social Work Program Accreditation
version **1.28.2026**

Accreditation policies are subject to change. Periodic updates to this handbook are effective immediately. When updates occur, programs primary contacts are notified, and the handbook is posted publicly. Visit the accreditation webpages at www.cswe.org to ensure use of the current version of this handbook.

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Volunteer Opportunities

Engagement Snapshot

230

- Reaffirmation site visitors

30

- Board of Accreditation (BOA) members

13

- Former BOA members conducting candidacy visits

10

- Members of the Fellowship Review Committee (FRC)

Total Accreditation Volunteers:
283

(as of January 2026)



Perks of Volunteering with CSWE

- Professional development
- Enhancing accreditation expertise, technical discussion, and writing skills to contribute to one's own social work program's accreditation efforts
- Learning about new, innovative, and promising social work education practices
- A network of peers with expertise in accreditation
- Annual letters of recognition which may be used for promotions
- Contributing to the overall improvement of the social work profession and education community
- Join the annual volunteer celebration at [CSWE's Annual Conference](#)



Ready to Volunteer?

- Applications open on **April 1, 2026**
- Complete the relevant interest form:
 - [Site Visitor Interest Form](#)
 - [BOA Interest Form](#)
 - [Fellowship Review Committee Interest Form](#)



THANK
YOU
VERY MUCH

