

It's time to act.

*Championing Disability Justice
and Disability Joy in Social Work*

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2022 EPAS and ADEI

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Welcome to Annual Conference

Megan Fujita, PhD, MSW
Vice President of Education



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



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



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Session Objectives

- Understand CSWE's response to legislative developments.
- Learn how to access and utilize accreditation resources that may help programs comply with the ADEI-related standards.

Session Overview

- Legislative Landscape
 - CSWE Response
 - Advocacy
- 2022 EPAS
 - Overview
 - Next Steps
 - Resources

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CSWE Context: Two Pillars



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 EPAS

Education Association

- Board of Directors
– Governs CSWE
- National Nominating Committee
- Commissions & Councils
- CSWE membership
- Fellowships
- Centers & Initiative
- Focus on best practices and resources for EPAS and SW education

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Legislative Landscape & CSWE Response

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CSWE at the Table

- Washington Higher Education Secretariate / American Council on Education
- Interprofessional Education Collaborative
- Federation of Associations of School of the Health Professions
- National Academies

- Council on Higher Education Accreditation
- Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors

- Federal Agencies (SAMHSA, HRSA, ED, NIH)
- Congressional Engagement

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Overview of Landscape

Between Nov. 2024 and August 2025:

- 43 Advocacy Updates on anti-DEI legislation, appropriations, the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act*, Executive Orders issued by the Trump Administration, and more
- 54 Coalition engagements with MPNEC, MFP, FASHP, EWA, PSLF
- 29 Congressional Engagements (with one large student Hill event)
- 14 Federal Relations Calls
- 26 Hearings monitored

Overview of Landscape

- Negotiated Rulemaking: Defining Professional Degrees
 - Impact on student loan limits and other program funding eligibility
 - Resumes November 2025
- Restrictive State-Level Legislation
 - Accreditation
 - Academic Freedom
- Public perception of higher education
- Role of social work – generalist and specialized practice

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Advocacy • Navigating Uncertainty

- Leaning on the mission, leveraging CSWE's strengths
 - Be informed; avoid acting prematurely
 - Hope meets strategy: Disseminate knowledge continuously via webinars, conversations, statements, comments, testimonials, advocacy letters, resources, updates, consultation, amicus briefs, Hill visits
- ✓ New quarterly advocacy newsletter
 - ✓ Accreditation response to programs from states with anti-DEI legislation
 - ✓ Webinar: Safeguarding Social Work Education and Science - CSWE, SSWR, NADD
 - ✓ Statement in Inside Higher Ed, Statement at U.S. DOE's negotiated rule-making hearing for MSW/DSW degrees to be classified as "professional" degrees, expanded student aid

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Recently... *A Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education*

- White House request that nine universities endorse "A Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education" agreement to receive preferential federal treatment in exchange for freezing tuition, ensuring viewpoint diversity, requiring institutional neutrality, limiting international student enrollment, etc. Letter sent to: University of Arizona, Brown, Dartmouth, MIT, UPenn, USC, UT-Austin, Vanderbilt,-UVA).
- Trading privileges for possible threats to academic independence and destabilizing institutional finances.
- CSWE has joined the ACE and other higher education associations in signing a joint statement opposing the Trump Administration's proposed "Compact for Academic Excellence."

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Recently... *A Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education (cont.)*

Statement by Higher Education Associations in Opposition to Trump Administration Compact

“...our associations, which span the breadth of the American higher education community and the full spectrum of colleges and universities nationwide, are unified in our opposition to the compact.

The compact offers nothing less than government control of a university’s basic and necessary freedoms—the freedoms to decide who we teach, what we teach, and who teaches—as outlined by Justice Frankfurter seventy-five years ago. The compact is just the kind of excessive federal overreach and regulation, to the detriment of state and local input and control, that this administration says it is against.”

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Recently...*Dept of Ed Negotiated Rulemaking*

- Regulations that will determine graduate degrees or professional degrees.
- The tax law that passed sets new federal student loan limits for graduate degrees at \$20,500/\$100,000 (annual/aggregate) vs \$50,000/\$200,000 for professional degrees.
- **August** – CSWE testified to ED against the termination of Graduate PLUS loans and on behalf of social work graduate degrees being recognized as professional degrees.
- **October** – ED Proposed Professional Degrees: Pharmacy (Pharm.D.), Dentistry (D.D.S. or D.M.D.), Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.), Chiropractic (D.C. or D.C.M.), Law (L.L.B. or J.D.), Medicine (M.D.), Optometry (O.D.), Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.), Podiatry (D.P.M., D.P., or Pod.D.), and Theology (M.Div., or M.H.L.).

Recently... *Dept of Ed Negotiated Rulemaking (cont.)*

- **October** - CSWE identified rulemaking negotiators from universities where there are social work programs
- **October** - FASHP (Federation of Associations of Schools of Health Professions), including CSWE, submitted a Letter to the chief negotiators using the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code 51 angle.
- **October** – proposed to rulemakers adding “other public health profession (as defined in 685.219(b)) programs requiring licensure”
- Recent October proposal –

Negotiated Rulemaking will resume November 2025

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Recent Advocacy - cswe.org/news/newsroom

- CSWE Joins ACE in Opposition to the Compact for Academic Excellence, *October 2025*
- *CSWE Responds to DHS Proposed Rule Limiting Foreign Students Stay in US, October 2025*
- *CSWE Joins FASHP Call to Expand Definition of Professional Degrees, October 2025*
- **CSWE Statement on Legislative Changes, September 2025*
- *Letter to the Department of Education on MHSP Priorities, August 2025*
- *Call to Congress to Save Grad PLUS Loans, Restructure Accountability Framework, June 2025*
- *National Conversation on Academic Freedom, June 2025*

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Moving Forward with Advocacy

- ✓ More data to support our cause – workforce and education data
- ✓ Finding more allies across the aisles – continue Hill strategy
- ✓ Continuing to engage
- ✓ Preparing to officially comment
- ✓ Continue to explore financial solutions
- ✓ Mobilizing our national platform

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Updates from CSWE: Coming Soon

- Professional Degree definition
 - Negotiated rulemaking resumes November 2025
- Programs in states with restrictive legislation or mandates
 - Academic freedom
 - Accreditation

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2022 EPAS & ADEI Standards

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Accreditation Context

- CSWE's Board of Accreditation (BOA) is recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) to accredit baccalaureate and master's degree programs in the United States and its territories.
- Accreditation is peer-review process
 - Fellow social work educators
 - Volunteers with a background in social work education and active CSWE membership
 - Conducted at least three site visits

2022 EPAS Overview: ADEI

- Identify specific and continuous efforts within the explicit and implicit curricula that address ADEI [Accreditation Standard 2.0.1 & 2.0.2]
- Admissions policies and procedures [AS 4.1.1]
- Teaching ADEI competency in the explicit curriculum [AS 3.1.2 & M3.2.4]
- Assessment of ADEI competency in the explicit curriculum [AS 5.0.1]
- Assessment of ADEI effort in the implicit curriculum [AS 5.0.2]

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**Anti-racism
Diversity
Equity
Inclusion**

Members-Only ADEI Resources

- Provides up-to-date guidance during state and federal legislative changes or directives
- Updates are **highlighted** and routinely distributed to programs and volunteers
- To access the webpage, use this [How-To guide](#)

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Alternative Assessment Forms

You have options:

- **#1:** Continue posting the required [2015 EPAS](#) or [2022 EPAS](#) data reporting form as-is; or
- **#2:** Post the alternative data reporting form, which identifies competencies by numbers *only* and removes the competency titles.

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Alternative Assessment Forms Example

Assessment Data Collected on: MM/YY

<u>Competency</u>	Competency: Expected Level of Achievement Inclusive of All Instruments	Aggregate Actual Outcomes: All Program Options n = (Number of Students)	Program Option 1 Outcomes: Program Option Name n = (Number of Students)	Program Option 2 Outcomes: Program Option Name n = (Number of Students)	Program Option 3 Outcomes: Program Option Name n = (Number of Students)
Competency 1	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted] [Delete this help text before submission: Add or delete program option columns as needed]	[Redacted] [Delete this help text before submission: Add or delete program option columns as needed]
Competency 2	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]



Fall 2025 Guidance

1. [CSWE Statement on Legislative Changes](#) | September 25, 2025

“CSWE and its Board of Accreditation (BOA) do not request and will not require any program to violate any enacted laws in order to maintain or achieve accreditation. Programs are expected to engage with appropriate institutional counsel to ensure legal compliance.”

2. October 2025 Board of Accreditation Meeting

- BOA approved guidance for programs in restrictive environments
- Details coming by end of 2025
- If a program needs an extension on submission of accreditation documents due to these restrictions, contact your accreditation specialist

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Resources

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Members-Only ADEI Webpage

The screenshot shows the CSWE website header with the logo and navigation menu. The 'ADEI Resources' menu item is highlighted with a red box. Below the navigation bar is a banner for 'Membership' with a red arrow pointing to it. A 'Join' button is visible below the banner, and a link to the program is provided below that.

CSWE
COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

Katie Gibson-Ledl | Logout

Member Directory Site Visitor Resources **ADEI Resources** Other Member Resources

Membership

Join

[Link to Program / Join CSWE](#)

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Requesting an Extension

- **Accredited programs:** Options of a 4-month, 8-month, or 1-year extension.
- **Candidate programs:** 4-month extension at each benchmark phase.
- Submit the [Accreditation Timetable Change Request Form](#) 3-months in advance of the document due date.
- Email to your CSWE Accreditation Specialist.

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CSWE Statements & Directives

- Share CSWE statements and directives with your team, administrators, and legal counsel.
- Inform decision-makers about the social work profession's purpose and why ADEI is threaded throughout our academic training and accreditation standards
- Educate your stakeholders on the storytelling nature of accreditation:
 - Encouraging flexibility
 - Honoring context
 - Ensuring education is not one-size-fits-all

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Accreditation Visits

- You may choose not to discuss a standard that does not align with your context.
- Use any language you wish when discussing ADEI.
- Visitors will not offer advice, guidance, or interpretation of legislation.
- Reports will not reference legislation.
- Program response:
- In the program's formal written response:
 - Explain any legal factors affecting ability to meet standards
 - Demonstrate how the standards are addressed within the institutional or legal framework

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Federally-funded Field Placement Sites

- Virtual social work field education activity examples
- Unable to sign affiliation agreements or learning contracts:
 - Not an accreditation requirement
 - Program assumes responsibility for a competency-based education
 - *Example solution:* For example, field instructors at federally-funded sites may serve as task supervisors while the program appoints an alternative field instructor (e.g., field director, field liaisons, field seminar instructors, alum) per Accreditation Standard B/M3.3.6.

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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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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 allows [unlimited access for social work educators](#).

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Upcoming Live Drop-in Q&A Sessions

Accredited

- Wednesday, November 19, 2025
- 1:00pm-2:30pm ET
- [Register via the Learning Academy](#)

Pre/Candidate

- Thursday, November 20, 2025
- 2:00pm-3:30pm ET
- [Register via the Learning Academy](#)

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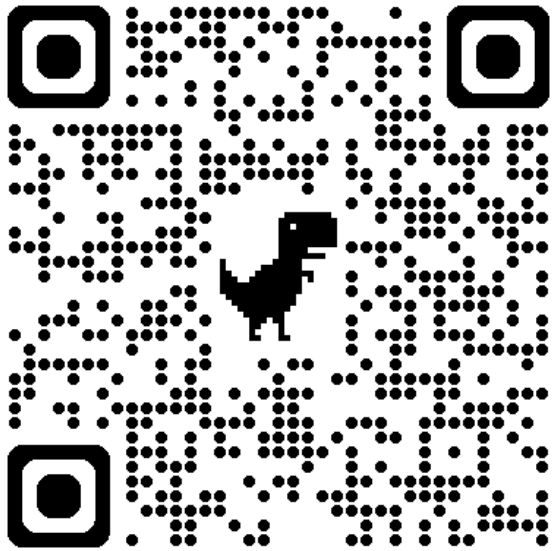
Council on Social Work Education
www.cswe.org





Accreditation Updates Webinar

Wed., November 5, 2025
1:00-2:00pm (EST)



- “Office hours” with accreditation leadership
- Timely updates on interpretations, policies, resources, training, services, volunteer perks, and *so much more!*
- Q&A
- Questions welcome via the [registration form](#)

Join us!

Webinar will not be recorded due to interactive nature.

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