



It's time to act.

*Championing Disability Justice
and Disability Joy in Social Work*

CSWE 71ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE | DENVER, CO



CSWE Annual Conference

Post-Master's Fellowship Accreditation Information Session

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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.

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Presenter



Stephanie McNally
(Pronouns: she/her/hers)

Manager of Fellowship Accreditation &
Accreditation Operations

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Panelists: Fellowship Review Committee members



Amy Cressman, DSW, LSW
Lecturer; Rutgers School of Social Work
Fellowship Review Committee Member



Candace Farrell, PhD, LCSW
DCABPS Director of Social Work Training
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Fellowship Review Committee Member



Robin G. Arndt, DSW, MSW, LSW
Coordinator, Field & Continuing Education;
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Fellowship Review Committee Member

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Panelists: Texas A&M Health College of Medicine Post Graduate Clinical Social Work Fellowship



Annette M. Clark, MSW, LCSW-S
Fellowship Program Director



Bradley Bogdan, LCSW-S
Clinical Assistant Professor

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Housekeeping

- Slide deck available for download in the conference microsite and app
- We encourage self-care during this session!
 - Stand
 - Take a break
 - Step away
 - Stretch
 - Hydrate
 - Snack

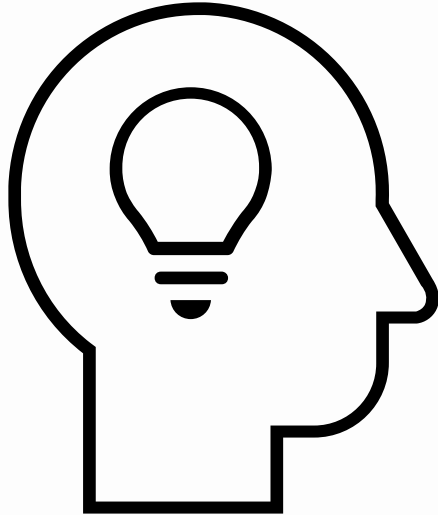


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Learning Objectives



1. **Gain an understanding of the post-master's of social work education programs eligible for fellowship accreditation and the benefits of accreditation.**
2. **Understand the peer-review fellowship accreditation process and role of the Fellowship Review Committee.**
3. **Network with others interested in post-master's social work fellowship education.**

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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About Accreditation

Purpose: Achieving accreditation demonstrates to the public and prospective trainees that the program meets a standardized level of educational quality.

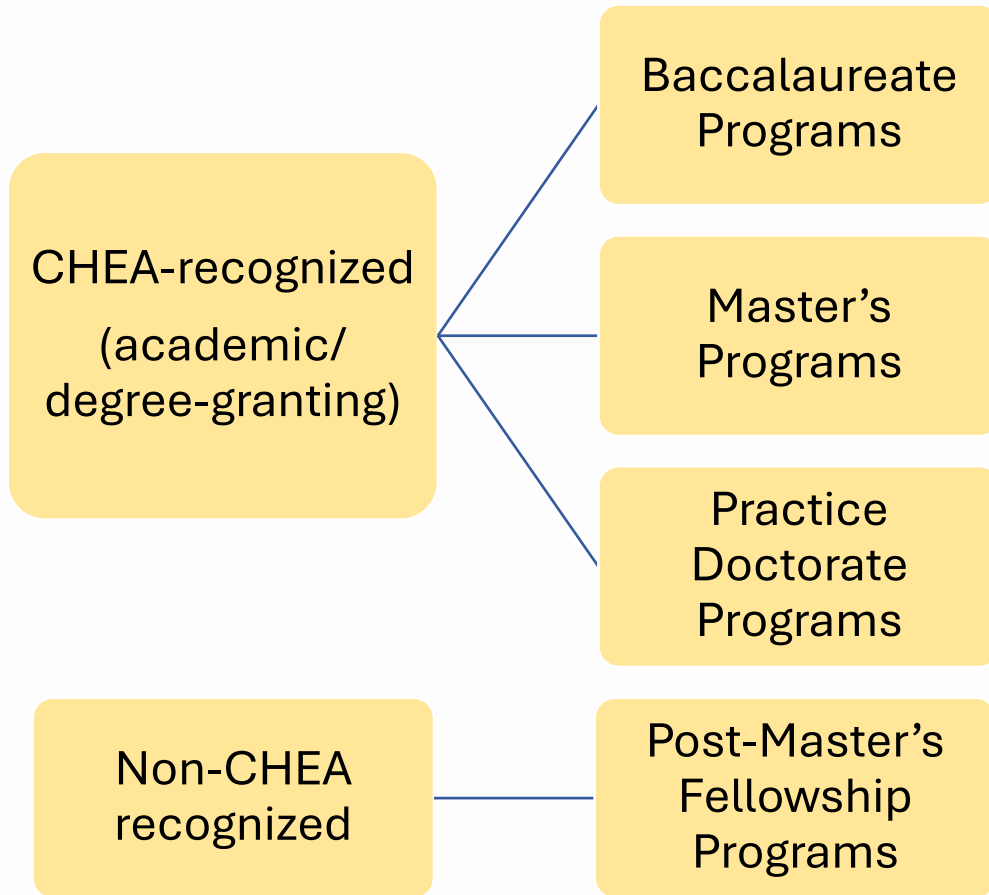
CSWE's Board of Accreditation (BOA) is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation as the sole accrediting agency for social work education in the United States and its territories.

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CSWE-BOA Scope of Accreditation



Current Number of Social Work Programs (as of June 2025)



Resource: [Directory of Accredited Programs](#)

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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

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Trainees of Post-MSW Fellowships



Frequently recent graduates of master's program



Looking for structured training in a defined area of social work practice



Paid a salary or stipend by the program



In many states, fellowship hours may be used to meet state licensure requirements



In some cases, host sites hire fellowship graduates after completion of fellowship program

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Fellowship Accreditation Background

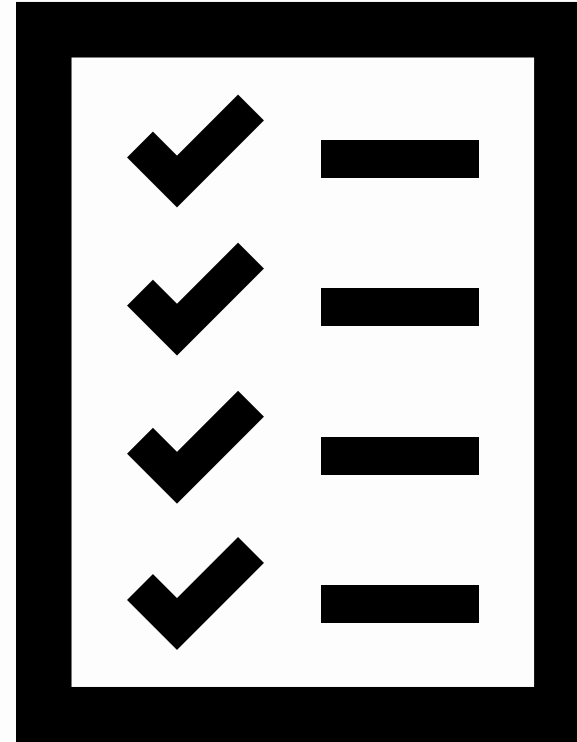
- BOA began accrediting post-master's social work fellowship programs in 2021.
- There are currently 5 accredited post-master's social work fellowship programs:
 1. Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) Clinical Fellowship in Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health
 2. Durham VA Health Care System Interprofessional Fellowship in Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Oriented Services
 3. Texas A&M College of Medicine Post Graduate Clinical Social Work Fellowship
 4. VA Connecticut Health Care System Interprofessional Fellowship in Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Oriented Services
 5. Walter Reed National Military Medical Center's National Capital Consortium Social Work Fellowship in Child and Family Practice
- Fellowship accreditation information can be found on the CSWE website:
<https://www.cswe.org/accreditation/fellowship/>

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Fellowship Accreditation Requirements



Complete requirements and process information are outlined in the [Fellowship Accreditation Handbook](#)

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Fellowship Accreditation Eligibility Requirements

- **Host Site:** The program is hosted by a site offering social work services in the United States, its territories, or on U.S. military installations.
- **Program Administration:** The program director is appointed to administratively oversee all aspects of the program.
- **Admissions:** Trainees must hold a master's degree in social work from a CSWE-accredited program prior to commencing the program

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Fellowship Accreditation Eligibility Requirements

- **Curriculum:**

- The program is practice-based and includes supervision
- The program is competency-based and provides training and supervision within one or more defined areas of social work practice.
- The program's length must be between 9-36 months
- The program must provide 1,000 program hours minimum
 - 100 didactic instruction
 - 900 practice experience
 - Of the 900 practice hours, least 100 are supervision (instructional guidance provided to the trainee by an experienced social worker throughout the course of the program)

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Fellowship Accreditation Standards

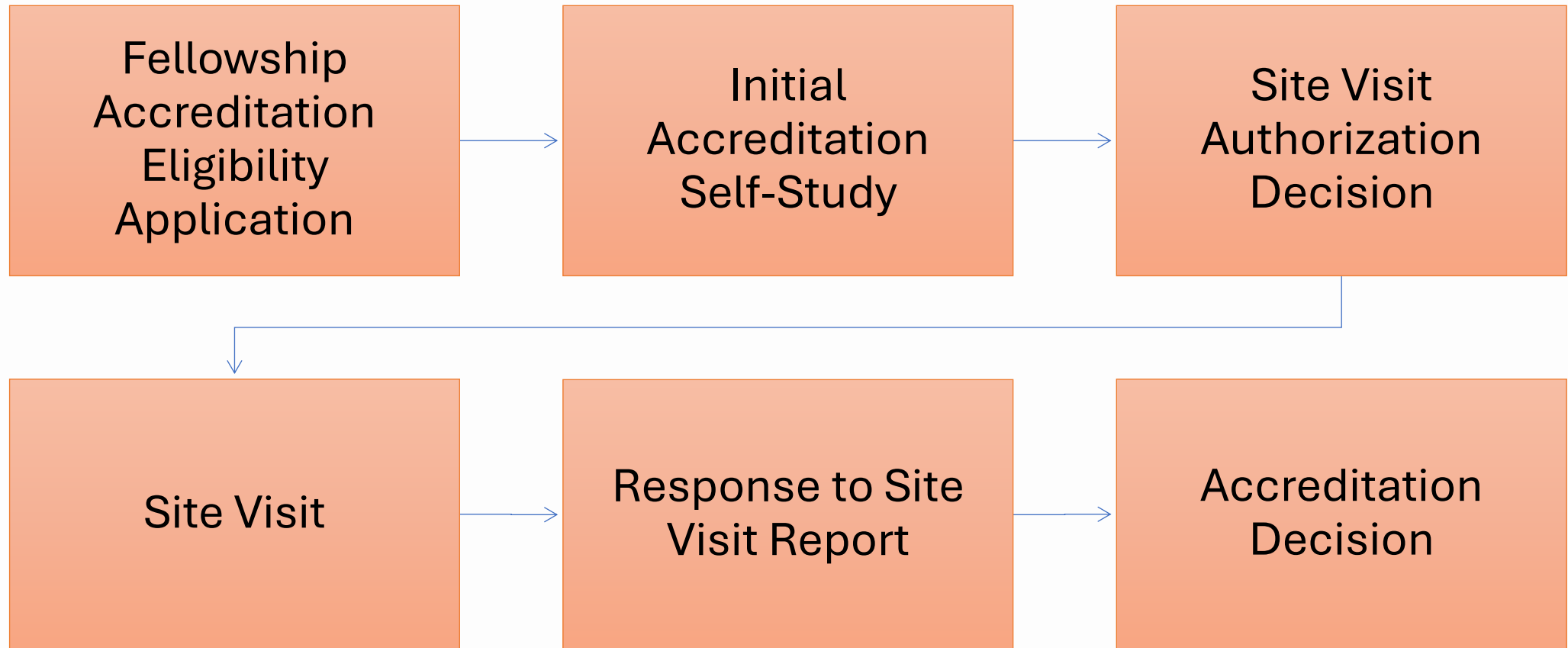
- [Post-Master's Social Work Fellowship Accreditation Standards](#) (Approved and adopted by CSWE Board of Accreditation (BOA) in October 2021)
- Four sections:
 1. Program Mission and Goals
 2. Curriculum
 3. Learning Environment
 4. Assessment
- The fellowship accreditation standards serve as the basis to evaluate the quality of the fellowship program offered and to hold the program accountable to these expectations to the community, the profession, and the public

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Initial Accreditation Process



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Maintaining Accreditation

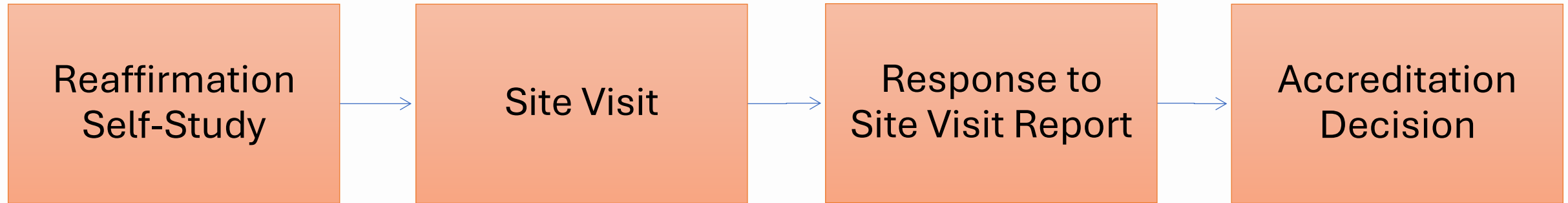
- Programs are accredited for a period of eight (8) years
- Programs are required to maintain compliance with [accreditation standards](#) between reviews including:
 - **Submitting Cohort Reports**
 - Provides CSWE with recent cohort and program assessment activities and verifies the program's continued compliance
 - **Notifying CSWE of program changes**
 - **Paying Annual Accreditation Fees**

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Reaffirmation Process (Every 8 Years)

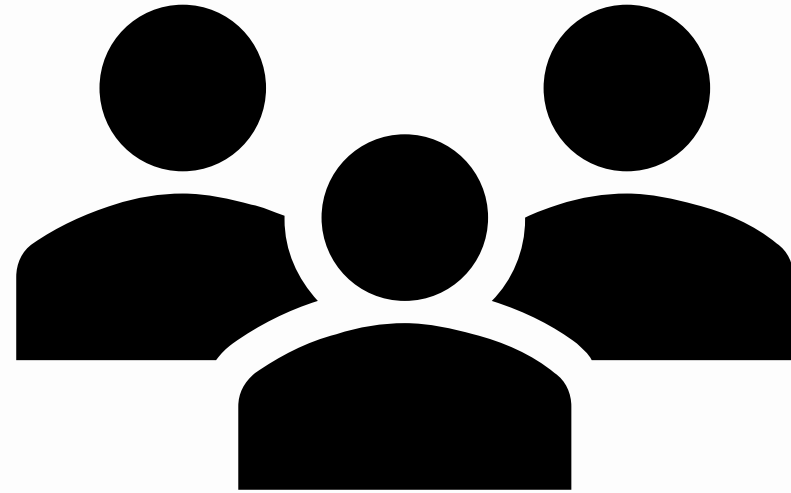


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Fellowship Review Committee

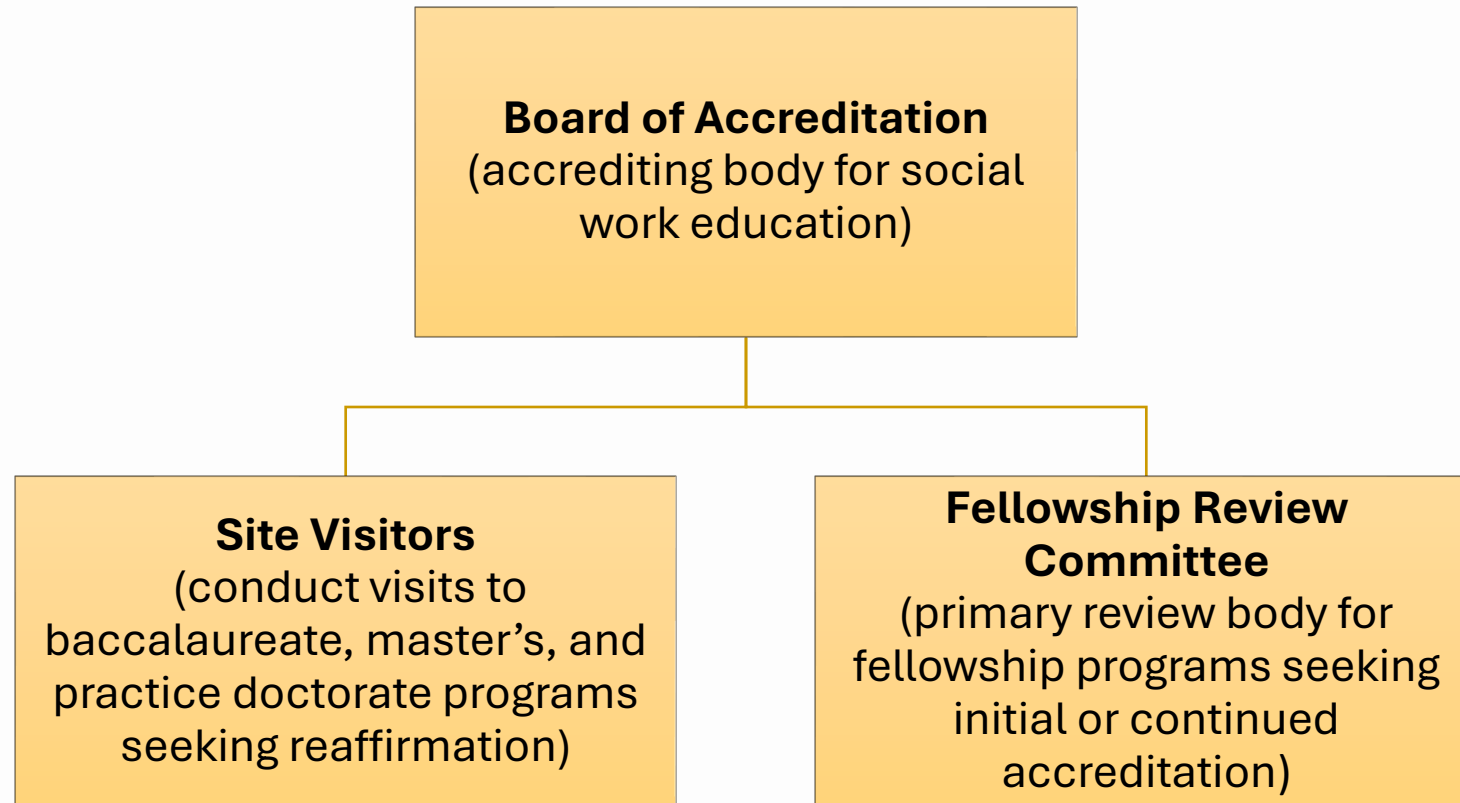


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Types of Accreditation Volunteers



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Fellowship Review Committee

- The **Fellowship Review Committee (FRC)** serves as the primary review body for fellowship programs seeking initial or continued accreditation and is responsible for making accreditation decision recommendations to the Board of Accreditation (BOA).
- Post-master's social work fellowship programs are practice-based and not degree programs at universities or colleges.
 - The FRC is comprised of social work educators and practitioners which ensures a **peer-review** based accreditation process for these practice-based programs.
 - Fellowship programs are not recognized by CHEA (Council on Higher Education Accreditation)

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Fellowship Review Committee (FRC)



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



- The FRC is responsible for:
- 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.

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Perks of Becoming an Accreditation Volunteer:

- 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

Applications open April 1-April 30 each year!

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Q & A

Ask the Panelists



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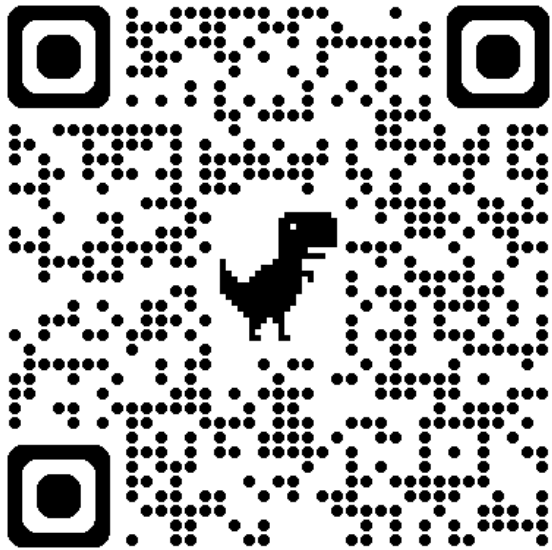
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Accreditation Updates Webinar

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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Thank you!

Links:

- [Post-master's fellowship accreditation webpage](#)
- [Directory of Accredited Fellowship Programs webpage](#)
- [Fellowship Review Committee Roster webpage](#)
- [Becoming a CSWE Accreditation Volunteer webpage](#)
- [Fellowship Review Committee Interest Form](#)

Contact us: fellowshipaccred@cswe.org

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