



COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

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

2025 Accreditation Standards for Practice Doctorate Social Work Programs
Candidacy Process: 3-year Benchmark Grid
version 3.2025

For practice doctorate programs pursuing initial accreditation via the [traditional pathway](#), the *Candidacy Benchmark Grid* on the following pages illustrates which elements of the [2025 Accreditation Standards for Practice Doctorate Social Work Programs](#) the program must submit to achieve each candidacy benchmark.

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 accreditation standards, 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 (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

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

- Volume 1: Responses to all EPAS standards
- Volume 2: Syllabi
- Volume 3: Student Handbook

Candidacy Process: 3-year Benchmark Grid

2025 Accreditation Standards for Practice Doctorate Social Work Programs	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 Standards Evaluated for Compliance
1 – Program Mission	AS D1.0.1 AS D1.0.2		AS D1.0.1 AS D1.0.2		AS D1.0.1 AS D1.0.2
2 – Anti-racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ADEI)		AS D2.0.1 AS D2.0.2	AS D2.0.1 AS D2.0.2		AS D2.0.1 AS D2.0.2
3 – Explicit Curriculum	AS D3.0.1 (compliance statements a-f and i) AS D3.0.2 AS D3.0.3	AS D3.0.1 (complete) Syllabi	AS D3.0.1 (complete) AS D3.0.2 AS D3.0.3 Syllabi		AS D3.0.1 (complete) AS D3.0.2 AS D3.0.3 Syllabi
4 – Implicit Curriculum 4.0 – Student Development – Admission	AS D4.0.1 AS D4.0.2 AS D4.0.3 AS D4.0.4				AS D4.0.1 AS D4.0.2 AS D4.0.3 AS D4.0.4
4.0 – Student Development – Advising, Mentorship, Retention, and Termination	AS D4.0.6	AS D4.0.5 AS D4.0.7	AS D4.0.5 AS D4.0.6 AS D4.0.7		AS D4.0.5 AS D4.0.6 AS D4.0.7
4.0 – Student Development – Student Participation		AS D4.0.8 Student Handbook	AS D4.0.8 Student Handbook		AS D4.0.8 Student Handbook
4.1 – Faculty	AS D4.1.1	AS D4.1.2	AS D4.1.1	AS D4.1.2	AS D4.1.1 AS D4.1.2
4.2 – Administrative and Governance Structure	AS D4.2.4(a) AS D4.2.4(b) AS D4.2.4(c)	AS D4.2.1 AS D4.2.2 AS D4.2.3	AS D4.2.4(a) AS D4.2.4(b) AS D4.2.4(c)	AS D4.2.1 AS D4.2.2 AS D4.2.3	AS D4.2.1 AS D4.2.2 AS D4.2.3 AS D4.2.4(a) AS D4.2.4(b) AS D4.2.4(c)
4.3 – Resources	AS D4.3.1 AS D4.3.4 AS D4.3.5	AS D4.3.2 AS D4.3.3	AS D4.3.2 AS D4.3.3		AS D4.3.1 AS D4.3.2 AS D4.3.3 AS D4.3.4 AS D4.3.5

Candidacy Process: 3-year Benchmark Grid

2025 Accreditation Standards for Practice Doctorate Social Work Programs	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 Standards Evaluated for Compliance
5 – Assessment		AS D5.0.1(a) AS D5.0.1(b) AS D5.0.1(c) (process only) AS D5.0.1(d) AS D5.0.2(a) AS D5.0.2(b) AS D5.0.3 AS D5.0.4(a) AS D5.0.4(b) (process only)	AS D5.0.1(a) AS D5.0.1(c) (process only) AS D5.0.2(a) AS D5.0.4(a) AS D5.0.4(b) (process only)	AS D5.0.1(b) AS D5.0.1(c) (complete) ASD 5.0.1(d) AS D5.0.2(b) AS D5.0.3 AS D5.0.4(b) (complete)	AS D5.0.1(a) AS D5.0.1(b) AS D5.0.1(c) (complete) AS D5.0.1(d) AS D5.0.2(a) AS D5.0.2(b) AS D5.0.3 AS D5.0.4(a) AS D5.0.4(b) (complete)