



COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

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ACCREDITATION (DOSWA)

March 7, 2016

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Dear President Hanson:

At its February 2016 meeting, the Commission on Accreditation (COA) reviewed the *Reaffirmation* application for the baccalaureate social work program. The COA voted to reaffirm the accreditation of the program for 8 years, through February 2024; with a *Progress Report* to be reviewed by the COA.

In taking this action, the Commission identified the following areas of concern:

Accreditation Standard 1.0.2: *The program identifies its goals and demonstrates how they are derived from the program's mission.*

The program needs to identify goals rather than student outcomes and clarify how all goals are derived from the program's mission.

The program is asked to identify 5 and 6 as goals rather than student outcomes and clarify how all goals are derived from the program's mission.

Accreditation Standard 4.0.2: *The program provides summary data and outcomes for the assessment of each of its competencies, identifying the percentage of students achieving each benchmark.*

At the time of the response, not all data on the SWIM cohort was available.

The program is asked to provide this information in the *Progress Report*.

Submit three (3) copies of the *Progress Report* no later than December 1, 2016 for review during the February 2017 Commission on Accreditation meeting.

Please be in touch with Dr. Lynne Taylor, Accreditation Specialist in the Department of Social Work Accreditation, if there are any questions about this letter or the procedures and actions of the Commission on Accreditation.

Sincerely,

Andrew W. Safyer, PhD, MSW
Chair, Commission on Accreditation

AWS/LMT

Cc: Cheryl A. Byers, PhD, MSW,
Director & Associate Professor, Social Work Program

Bemidji State University/Social Work Program
Response to Letter of Instruction
October 30, 2015

Accreditation Standard 1.0: Program mission and goals

Response: We agree with the site visitor's report.

Accreditation Standard 1.0.2: *The program identifies its goals and demonstrates how they are derived from the program's mission.*

Response: The six program goals have been refined to read as program goals. The chart below outlines this modification.

	Self-Study Goals	Revised Program Goals
1	Identify with and practice according to the principles, values, and ethics that guide the social work profession.	The program will graduate students who engage in professional and ethical social work practice.
2	Engage in culturally responsive evidence-based practice across micro, mezzo, and macro systems with emphasis on the geo-political, social, and the Indigenous cultural uniqueness of northern Minnesota.	Provide a curriculum that prepares students for culturally responsive, evidence-based practice at all levels; be it local, tribal, state, national, or international.
3	Utilize bio-psycho-social, cultural, and spiritual models of human behavior to engage in a respectful, present, person-centered practice.	The program will graduate students who engage in a respectful, present, person-centered practice that utilizes bio-psycho-social, cultural, and spiritual models of human behavior.
4	Become life-long learners and critical thinkers, grounded in a globally interconnected system of practice.	The program will engage in and provide opportunities for life-long learning and critical reflection; grounded in a globally interconnected system of practice.
5	Engage in research inquiry to develop responsive practice across systems.	Engage in research inquiry in order to facilitate implementation of evidence-based and culturally responsive local practice. <i>the program will</i>
6	Employ effective practices to address social inequities through policy analysis, advocacy, and implementation strategies.	Engage in policy analysis and advocacy to address social inequities. <i>the program will</i>