



# COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

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July 9, 2018

Dr. Fred P. Pestello  
President  
Saint Louis University  
Office of the President  
221 N. Grand Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63103

Dear President Pestello:

At its June 2018 meeting, the Commission on Accreditation (COA) reviewed the self-study, the COA *Letter of Instructions*, the *Site Visit Report*, and the program's response to the report as the *Reaffirmation* application for the baccalaureate social work program. The COA voted to reaffirm accreditation of the program for eight years, ending in June 2026, with a *Progress Report* to be reviewed by the COA.

In taking this action, the Commission identified the following area(s) of concern:

**Accreditation Standard 4.0.1:** *The program presents its plan for ongoing assessment of student outcomes for all identified competencies in the generalist level of practice (baccalaureate social work programs) and the generalist and specialized levels of practice (master's social work programs). Assessment of competence is done by program designated faculty or field personnel. The plan includes:*

- *A description of the assessment procedures that detail when, where, and how each competency is assessed for each program option.*
- *At least two measures assess each competency. One of the assessment measures is based on demonstration of the competency in real or simulated practice situations.*
- *An explanation of how the assessment plan measures multiple dimensions of each competency, as described in EP 4.0.*
- *Benchmarks for each competency, a rationale for each benchmark, and a description of how it is determined that students' performance meets the benchmark.*
- *An explanation of how the program determines the percentage of students achieving the benchmark.*
- *Copies of all assessment measures used to assess all identified competencies.*

The program presented its plan for ongoing assessment of student outcomes for all identified competencies in the generalist and specialized levels of practice (master's social work programs). However, the plan remains unclear as all assessment measures used to assess all identified competencies were not provided. Furthermore, it is unclear whether the same course-embedded measures are used to assess each students' competency attainment.

The program is asked to present its plan for ongoing assessment of student outcomes for all identified competencies in the generalist level of practice (baccalaureate social work programs). Assessment of competence is done by program designated faculty or field personnel. The plan should include all the bulleted items specified in the **accreditation standard**.

**Accreditation Standard 4.0.2:** *The program provides its most recent year of summary data and outcomes for the assessment of each of the identified competencies, specifying the percentage of students achieving program benchmarks for each program option.*

The program provided its most recent year of summary data and outcomes for the assessment of each of the identified competencies, specifying the percentage of students achieving program benchmarks for each program option. However, the program did not report behavior-level outcomes, for each competency, for the real or simulated practice measure. Furthermore, updating the program's assessment plan per **Accreditation Standard 4.0.1**, necessitates an updated response to this standard.

The program is asked to provide its most recent year of summary data and outcomes for the assessment of each of the identified competencies, specifying the percentage of students achieving program benchmarks for each program option.

**Accreditation Standard 4.0.3:** *The program uses Form AS 4(B) and/or Form AS 4(M) to report its most recent assessment outcomes for each program option to constituents and the public on its website and routinely up-dates (minimally every 2 years) its findings.*

The program used *Form AS 4(B)* to report its most recent assessment outcomes for each program option to constituents and the public on its website and routinely up-dates (minimally every 2 years) its findings. However, updating the program's assessment plan per **Accreditation Standard 4.0.1** and summary data and outcomes per **Accreditation Standard 4.0.2**, necessitates an updated response to this standard.

The program is asked to use *Form AS 4(B)* to report its most recent assessment outcomes for each program option to constituents and the public on its website and routinely up-date (minimally every 2 years) its findings.

**Accreditation Standard 4.0.4:** *The program describes the process used to evaluate outcomes and their implications for program renewal across program options. It discusses specific changes it has made in the program based on these assessment outcomes with clear links to the data.*

The program described the process used to evaluate outcomes and their implications for program renewal across program options. However, the program did not discuss specific changes it has made in the program based on these assessment outcomes with clear links to the data. Furthermore, updating the program's assessment plan per **Accreditation Standard 4.0.1** and summary data and outcomes per **Accreditation Standard 4.0.2**, necessitates an updated response to this standard.

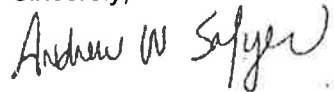
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Saint Louis University  
July 9, 2018  
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The program is asked to describe the process used to evaluate outcomes and their implications for program renewal across program options. The program is further asked to discuss specific changes it has made in the program based on these assessment outcomes with clear links to the data.

Submit three (3) copies of the *Progress Report* no later than April 1, 2019 for review during the June 2018 Commission on Accreditation meeting.

Please be in touch with Katie Gibson, 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/KG

Cc: Sabrina Tyuse, PhD, MSW  
Faculty, School of Social Work