



COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

**TIMELINE OF ACTIVITIES  
PROFESSIONAL DOCTORAL PROGRAMS IN SOCIAL WORK  
2010–2020**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activities</b>
2010-2011	<p>DSW Task Force Report  <u><i>The Doctorate in Social Work (DSW) Degree: Emergence of a New Practice Doctorate Report of the Task Force on the DSW Degree Convened by the Social Work</i></u></p> <p>Leadership Forum            Ike Adams—Chair, CSWE Commission on Accreditation (COA)            Phyllis Black—Marywood University            Mike Daley—President, Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors (BPD)            Donna DeAngelis—Executive Director, Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB)            Alan Dettlaff—Chair, CSWE Commission on Educational Policy (COEP)            Richard “Dick” Edwards—Dean, University of Pennsylvania            Mit Joyner—President, Council on Social Work Education            Amanda Randall—President, Association of Social Work Boards            Barbara Rittner—Chair, Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education (GADE)            Julia Watkins—Executive Director, Council on Social Work Education</p> <p>CSWE Staff            Judith Bremner—CSWE Director of Accreditation            Jessica Holmes—CSWE Associate Director for Research            Joyce White—CSWE Accreditation Specialist</p>
November 2012	<p>GADE Partner Session at the CSWE Annual Program Meeting</p> <p>Bentley, K. J., Rittner, B., &amp; Anastas, J. (2012). <i>Dialogue on the DSW: A GADE-sponsored conversation</i>. Panel presentation at the Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Washington, DC.</p>
December 2012	<p>Leadership Roundtable Discussion            Participants: American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare, ASWB, BPD, CSWE, GADE, National Association of Deans and Directors, Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR), St. Louis Group</p>
September 2013	<p>NASW Social Policy Institute Think Tank</p> <p>National Association of Social Workers. (2013). <i>Advanced practice doctorates: What do they mean for social work practice, research, and education?</i>  <a href="http://www.socialworkpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/SWPI_DSW_FINAL_Report.pdf">http://www.socialworkpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/SWPI_DSW_FINAL_Report.pdf</a></p>

<p>October 2013</p>	<p>The CSWE Board of Directors created a committee to explore the factors involved in accrediting a professional doctorate in social work.</p> <p>“As the sole accrediting body for professional social work education, what is the appropriate role for the CSWE Commission on Accreditation to have with the professional doctorates in social work?”</p> <p>The committee was asked to develop a plan to explore all relevant questions including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is involved in expanding the scope of recognition by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation?</li> <li>• What would be the appropriate infrastructure to accredit a higher level of professional degree?</li> <li>• What other relevant logistical issues need to be considered by CSWE?</li> <li>• What is the impact of accrediting, or not accrediting, the professional social work doctorate?</li> </ul> <p>Members of the Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alan Dettlaff, Associate Professor, University of Illinois at Chicago; Chair, CSWE Commission on Educational Policy</li> <li>• James Lubben, Professor and Program Director, PhD in Social Welfare, Boston College</li> <li>• Anna McPhatter, Dean, Morgan State University; Current Member of the Commission on Accreditation</li> <li>• David Patterson, Professor and Director, Clinical Doctorate Program, University of Tennessee at Knoxville</li> <li>• Christopher Petr, Professor and PhD Program Director, University of Kansas</li> <li>• Jo Ann Regan, Director, CSWE Office of Social Work Accreditation; Chair of the Committee</li> </ul> <p>CSWE Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dorothy Kagehiro, Research Associate, CSWE Office of Social Work Education and Research</li> <li>• Adrienne Stokes, Research Assistant, CSWE Office of Social Work Education and Research</li> </ul>
<p>October 2014</p>	<p>The DSW Committee presented to the CSWE Board of Directors the following recommendation (which was unanimously approved):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Survey current CSWE accredited programs to determine current and possible future advanced practice doctoral programs       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Add items to 2014 Annual Survey, MSW Program section:           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. “Is your institution planning to offer an advanced practice doctorate degree in social work?”               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We already offer such a degree</li> <li>2. Yes, in the next academic year.</li> <li>3. Yes, within 2 academic years.</li> <li>4. No</li> </ol> </li> <li>ii. “What type of advanced practice doctorate is offered or planned to be offered?”               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clinical teaching</li> <li>2. Administrative</li> <li>3. Other</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Hold follow-up interviews with these programs and key informants (deans, program directors, graduates, and current students) at the current or planned (non-</li> </ol>

	PhD) advanced practice doctorate programs in the United States to determine interest in seeking accreditation and perception of advantages/disadvantages and utility of seeking accreditation for advanced practice doctoral programs.																		
December 2014	<p>Added items to 2014 Annual Survey of Social Work Programs (MSW section):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. "Is your institution planning to offer an advanced practice doctorate degree in social work?" <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. We already offer such a degree</li> <li>b. Yes, in the next academic year.</li> <li>c. Yes, within 2 academic years.</li> <li>d. No</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. "What type of advanced practice doctorate is offered or planned to be offered?" <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Clinical</li> <li>b. Teaching</li> <li>c. Administrative</li> <li>d. Other</li> </ol> </li> </ol>																		
April 2015	<p>Analyzed Results</p> <p>Is your institution planning to offer an applied social work doctoral degree (i.e., other than PhD)?</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>We already offer such a degree</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yes, in the next academic year.</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yes, within 2 academic years.</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>21</td> </tr> </table> <p>What type of advanced practice doctorate is offered or planned to be offered (clinical, teaching, administrative, other)?</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Clinical</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Teaching</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Administrative</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </table>	We already offer such a degree	6	Yes, in the next academic year.	3	Yes, within 2 academic years.	12	Total	21	Clinical	12	Teaching	2	Administrative	1	Other	5	Total	20
We already offer such a degree	6																		
Yes, in the next academic year.	3																		
Yes, within 2 academic years.	12																		
Total	21																		
Clinical	12																		
Teaching	2																		
Administrative	1																		
Other	5																		
Total	20																		
May–June 2014	<p>Completed follow-up survey with current and planned advanced practice doctoral programs to determine interest in seeking accreditation and perception of advantages/disadvantages and utility of accreditation for advanced practice doctoral programs</p> <p>Survey invitations were sent to 19 contacts for advanced practice doctoral programs on August 19, 2015, through an Internet-based survey administration platform. The survey closed on September 14, 2015. Eleven (64.7%) programs participated; 17 invitations were successfully delivered.</p> <p>Survey results indicated mixed interest in seeking accreditation and varied perceptions of the advantages/disadvantages and utility of accreditation for advanced practice doctoral programs.</p>																		

October 2015	<p>DSW Committee presented to CSWE Board of Directors the following recommendations (which were unanimously approved):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate a process like the one employed by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) to develop a report on the continuum of social work education that focuses on general content and differentiation among the social work degrees (associate, BSW, MSW, research focused PhD, and advanced practice doctorates) with multiple groups/stakeholders besides COEP and COA. See the nursing report at <a href="http://www.aacn.nche.edu/publications/position/DNPEssentials.pdf">http://www.aacn.nche.edu/publications/position/DNPEssentials.pdf</a>.</li> <li>• Identify the general curriculum content and educational outcomes of the advanced practice doctorate level with the involvement of multiple stakeholders (e.g., SSWR, GADE; BSW, MSW, PhD, DSW programs).</li> <li>• An appropriate structure would be needed to conduct the above process that included the multiple stakeholders identified. In their process, AACN used a task force representing multiple constituencies in advanced nursing practice (see Appendix B in <a href="#">nursing report</a>). The task force conducted multiple regional meetings to provide opportunities for feedback from a diverse group of stakeholders. Additionally, a national stakeholders' conference was held with nursing education leaders and other professional organizations. Other stakeholders the committee discussed included social work organizations, employers, and graduates of DSW programs to gain a broader understanding of the role of the advanced practice doctorate to the social work profession.</li> </ul>
March 5, 2016	<p>The CSWE Board of Directors chair and DSW Committee chair presented the timeline of practice doctorate activities since 2010 to the Board to see whether additional information was needed to move forward on the decision regarding accreditation of practice doctoral programs in social work. No additional information was needed, and the Board voted to move forward with developing a process for the accreditation of advanced practice doctoral programs in social work.</p> <p>From Board minutes:</p> <p>“Accreditation of Practice Doctoral Programs in Social Work</p> <p>President Coffey presented an overview of the number of activities related to discussing and examining the issues of practice doctorates over the last ten (10) years (see attached timeline presented to Board on 3/5/16). A motion was made to The Board requesting that the Commission on Accreditation move forward with developing a process for the accreditation of practice doctoral programs consistent with existing CSWE processes. It was noted that the process will need to be done in a quality way and will need support and staffing to move forward with the implementation process. Dr. Coffey concluded her update, whereupon motion duly made. The motion was seconded and accepted. (Unanimous)”</p>
June 2016	<p>COA met to discuss the Board decision and decided to convene a face-to-face meeting at the end of the summer with the members of the then-titled Advanced Practice Doctorate Committee, COA and COEP chairs, GADE president, and other stakeholders identified to discuss and develop recommendations for a process and timeline for the accreditation of advanced practice doctoral programs. Other accreditors also were to be invited to discuss their processes and timelines.</p>

**COA–COEP PRACTICE DOCTORATE COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

August 2016	Practice doctorate stakeholder meeting at CSWE
January 2017	Practice doctorate subcommittee, formed by the COA and COEP, met to develop timeline and framework outline
April 2017	Practice doctorate subcommittee of COA and COEP met to finalize timeline and framework outline
October–December 2017	<a href="#">Practice doctorate framework document</a> released for feedback and comment at the CSWE Annual Program Meeting (APM) and feedback website
Jan 2018	Practice doctorate subcommittee of COA and COEP met to develop Draft 2 of framework based on <a href="#">feedback on Draft 1</a>
February–April 2018	Framework document presented to BPD and GADE for review and feedback
June 2018	The newly-titled Practice Doctorate Committee of COA and COEP representatives and DSW program directors review framework document and develop Draft 1 of accreditation standards
October–December 2018	Draft 1 of accreditation standards released for public review and comment via website and presented at the APM (13 surveys received and 3 letters)
January 2019	Practice Doctorate Committee reviews feedback and develops <a href="#">Draft 2 of accreditation standards</a> and process recommendations for COA to review
February 2019	Draft 2 standards and accreditation process recommendations presented to COA for feedback. Feedback summarized and sent back to COA for review and comment. Feedback to be shared with committee.
March 2019	Draft 2 standards presented to COEP for feedback. Feedback summarized; to be shared with committee.
March 2019	BPD feedback session on Draft 2 of standards
April–May 2019	Draft 2 of accreditation standards released for public review and comment via <a href="#">website</a> (25 surveys received + 3 e-mails)
April 2019	GADE feedback session on Draft 2 of standards
April 2019	NADD feedback session on Draft 2 of standards
May 2019	Practice Doctorate Committee reviewed feedback and developed final draft of accreditation standards and process recommendations for COA to review and approve piloting standards
June 2019	COA reviewed accreditation standards and voted not to pilot but to create a subcommittee to explore information that would be needed to determine whether further consideration of accreditation of professional doctoral programs should be considered.
October 2019	COA subcommittee recommended that the definition, scope, and accreditation standards of the June 2019 draft documents be reviewed and revised.
October 2019	COA Chair Deana F. Morrow created a Plan of Action and Timeline and appointed a Professional Practice Doctorate Workgroup, comprised of 6 COA commissioners, a representative from COEP, a liaison to DSW Program Directors, and the CSWE Director of Accreditation. The group was given specific tasks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and revise, as needed, the professional practice doctorate definition and professional practice doctorate scope of practice presented to the COA in June 2019</li> <li>• Make revisions, as needed, to professional practice doctorate educational policy and accreditation standards presented to the COA in June 2019</li> </ul>
January 2020	COA provided feedback on revised definition and accreditation standards
January 2020	COEP provided feedback on revised scope
February 2020	COEP approved posting revised scope for public feedback
February 2020	COA approved posting revised definition, scope, and accreditation standards for public feedback
March 2020	Documents posted on website and survey distributed for feedback from the public
April 2020	Feedback considered and incorporated as appropriate
May 2020	Final documents reviewed by COA and COEP for additional feedback

June 2020	Final feedback from COA and COEP considered and incorporated as appropriate
June 2020	COA Professional Practice Doctorate Workgroup presented revised definition, scope of practice, and Educational Policy and Accreditation standards to COA
June 2020	COA voted to pilot accreditation of practice doctoral programs