



Department of Social Work Accreditation

COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

**December 2024**

## **A Warm Welcome from FRC Chair, Dr. Christopher Guenther**



CSWE is pleased to announce the newly appointed chair of the [Fellowship Review Committee \(FRC\)](#), Dr. Christopher Guentner, DSW, LCSW, BCD, LTC, MS. Dr. Guentner will serve as FRC chair through June 2026.

Having spent over 19 years in clinical and academic behavioral health administration as a United States Army Social Work Officer, Dr. Guentner is currently the Installation Director of Psychological Health (IDPH) at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. His leadership focuses on providing behavioral health care to servicemembers and their families. Chris focuses on educating the next generation of Social Work Officers while developing civilian and active-duty clinicians. As the IDPH, Chris engages daily with senior military officials and community representatives to help maintain the readiness of servicemembers to deploy.

Dr. Guentner has been involved in post-master's social work fellowship accreditation since 2019. Dr. Guentner served as program director of Walter Reed National Military Medical Center's National Capital Consortium Social Work Fellowship in Child and Family Practice, one of the four post-master's social work fellowship programs to participate in the accreditation pilot from 2019-2022. Under his leadership, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center's National Capital Consortium Social Work Fellowship in Child and Family Practice was the first post-master's social work fellowship program to obtain initial accreditation.

Soon after his program achieved initial accreditation in June 2021, Dr. Guentner continued his involvement in post-master's social work fellowship accreditation by serving on the Fellowship Review Committee (FRC). Dr. Guentner has served as a member of the FRC since June 2022.

Dr. Guentner shared, “I am honored to serve as the newly appointed chair of the Fellowship Review Committee (FRC). I am excited to work with the talented folks who volunteer for the FRC, and all CSWE colleagues to support and promote the accreditation of Social Work Fellowships.”

The BOA and CSWE staff congratulate Dr. Guentner on his appointment as inaugural chair of the FRC. Please join us in celebrating this achievement.

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## CSWE’s Board of Accreditation (BOA) Accredits Fifth Fellowship Program

At the [October 2024 meeting](#), CSWE’s Board of Accreditation (BOA) granted initial accreditation to Texas A&M University’s Post Graduate Clinical Social Work Fellowship.



This is the first fellowship program to receive initial accreditation since the post-master’s social work fellowship accreditation pilot concluded in 2022. This is also the first fellowship program to have been reviewed under the [Post-Master’s Social Work Fellowship Accreditation Standards](#) that were approved and adopted by the BOA in 2021.

CSWE congratulates Texas A&M University on this achievement. There are now 5 accredited post master’s social work fellowship programs:

- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) Clinical Fellowship in Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health
- Durham VA Health Care System Interprofessional Fellowship in Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Oriented Services
- Texas A&M University Post Graduate Clinical Social Work Fellowship
- VA Connecticut Health Care System Interprofessional Fellowship in Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Oriented Services
- Walter Reed National Military Medical Center's National Capital Consortium Social Work Fellowship in Child and Family Practice

For information regarding these programs, please visit the [Directory of Accredited Fellowship Programs](#).

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## Fellowship Accreditation Process Information

Fellowship programs accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)’s Board of Accreditation (BOA) provide training and supervision to master’s-level social work practitioners within one or more defined areas of social work practice.

Unlike the academic programs accredited by BOA, fellowship programs are practice-based and not tied to degree programs in colleges and universities. The purpose of fellowship training is for trainees to obtain advanced competencies and/or core expertise and skills beyond those attained through completion of a master's degree in social work.

CSWE's 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 BOA. The FRC is comprised of social work educators and practitioners to ensure a peer-review based accreditation process for post-master's social work fellowship programs.

**Interested in Seeking Accreditation?** Please visit our [website](#) for more information. If you have any questions or would like to meet to discuss seeking accreditation, please reach out to [fellowshipaccred@cswe.org](mailto:fellowshipaccred@cswe.org)

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## Fellowship Program Records & Communication

The Department of Social Work Accreditation maintains a list of programs interested in seeking accreditation. **To continue to receive updates regarding post-master's social work fellowship accreditation, please complete the following form by January 10: [Post-Master's Social Work Fellowship Program Database Record Form](#).** This will allow CSWE to have accurate details regarding social work fellowship programs and up-to-date records so we may communicate important accreditation updates.

If you are receiving this newsletter and are not interested in pursuing post-master's social work fellowship accreditation, please email [fellowshipaccred@cswe.org](mailto:fellowshipaccred@cswe.org) to opt-out.

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## Fellowship Accreditation Volunteer News



We express our sincere gratitude to our volunteers. Without your service, accreditation would not be possible!

The Department of Social Work Accreditation (DOSWA) and Board of Accreditation (BOA) partner with 8 members of the [Fellowship Review Committee \(FRC\)](#):

- Chair, Christopher J. Guenther, DSW, LCSW, BCD, LTC, MS
- Robin G. Arndt, MSW, LSW
- Jean Balestrery, PhD, MA, MSW, LICSW, MAC

- Amy Cressman, DSW, LSW
- Nikkita Jackson, DSW, LISW
- Amy Leach, LCSW
- Amy Narusas, LCSW
- Leigh Norwood, MSW, LCSW

**Perks of Volunteering with CSWE:**

- Engage in esteemed volunteer service and professional development
- Enhance accreditation expertise, technical discussion, and writing skills to contribute to one's own social work program's accreditation efforts
- Learn about new, innovative, and promising social work education practices
- Have a network of peers with expertise in accreditation
- Receive annual letters of recognition for services, that may be used for promotions
- Contribute to the overall improvement of the social work profession and educational community

**Interested in Volunteering?** Volunteer applications open each spring. Information on FRC roles and responsibilities can be found [here](#). To stay up-to-date on applications or information sessions please complete a [Fellowship Review Committee \(FRC\) Interest Form](#).

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We wish you a great end of year and happy holidays!

**CSWE Department of Social Work Accreditation**