



# Department of Social Work Accreditation

COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

**September 2023**

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## **A Warm Welcome from BOA Chair, Dr. Tom Gregoire**



CSWE is pleased to announce the newly elected chair of the [Board of Accreditation](#) (BOA), Dr. Thomas K. Gregoire, PhD, MSW. Dr. Gregoire's term as BOA chair will be 2023–2025.

Having spent 20 years in academic administration as an associate dean for academic affairs, dean, and interim senior vice provost, Dr. Gregoire is currently dean emeritus and an associate professor at The Ohio State University College of Social Work. His leadership is informed by a long-standing commitment to rigor and innovation in social work education. Tom places a value on collaborative leadership and community partnership in educating the next generation of social workers. As an academic leader, Tom promoted a high level of engagement with the practice community, a group that continues to make significant contributions in the collective development of social work curriculum. Tom made his first CSWE site visit in 2007 and has served on the BOA since 2018 (formerly the Commission on Accreditation).

Dr. Gregoire shared, “I am honored to serve as the inaugural chair of the Board of Accreditation. It is exciting to work with the talented educators who volunteer for the BOA, an exceptional accreditation staff, and with CSWE colleagues from other commissions to support social work education.”

The BOA and CSWE staff express their gratitude to departing chair, Dr. Deana F. Morrow, PhD, LICSW, ACSW, of West Virginia University for her 7 years of service-centered leadership and partnership.

## CSWE Celebrates its Board of Accreditation (BOA)

In April 2023, [CSWE announced its newly rebranded Board of Accreditation](#) (formerly the Commission on Accreditation) following the overwhelming support of [recent bylaw changes](#) and an updated [Memorandum of Agreement](#) (MOA) between CSWE and its accrediting body.



The CSWE-BOA's new identity actualizes the updates to the bylaws and MOA, affirming the accrediting body's autonomy with respect to accreditation reviews, actions, and decisions.

“Accreditation and membership stand as the two pillars that support our broad mission to advance excellence and innovation in social work education and research,” [said](#) Halaevalu F. O. Vakalahi PhD, MSW, MEd, President and CEO of CSWE.

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## Fellowship Accreditation Introduction Video

We are now accepting applications for post-master's social work fellowship accreditation!

Fellowship programs advance the knowledge and skills of social work practitioners in a focused area of practice:

- Unlike 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.

Accreditation staff have created an introductory post-master's social work fellowship accreditation [video](#).

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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## Notice of Changes to Accreditation Fees

CSWE reviews its fee structure periodically along with budget projections for the coming years. The results of these reviews are used to determine whether the fees or the structure applied to fee collection should be modified to meet the requirements of an autonomous operational budget supported by accreditation fees as expected for an accrediting organization recognized by [CHEA](#).

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Given the costs associated with the review of programs, a [new accreditation fee schedule](#) was released in July 2023. These fees will be effective **July 1, 2024 and thereafter**.

Fellowship programs that submit their initial accreditation eligibility application prior to July 1, 2024, will be charged the current fees through initial accreditation. New fees for post-master's social work fellowship programs will go into effect July 1, 2024, for programs seeking initial accreditation.

For accredited fellowship programs, the new annual fees and reaffirmation fees will go into effect July 1, 2024.

The types of fees applicable to post-master's social work fellowship program accreditation are outlined in the [Post-Master's Social Work Fellowship Accreditation Handbook](#):

- **Eligibility Fee:** The eligibility fee is paid by a fellowship program seeking initial accreditation. The fee is submitted alongside the program's Fellowship Accreditation Eligibility Application. Fellowship Accreditation Eligibility Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.
- **Initial Accreditation Fee:** Fellowship programs seeking initial accreditation will submit the initial accreditation fee alongside the initial accreditation Self-Study. The fee covers the cost of the site visit.
- **Annual Accreditation Fee:** All accredited fellowship programs must pay an annual fee each year in order to maintain accreditation. Annual fees are invoiced in January and due by February 28.
- **Reaffirmation Fee:** Fellowship programs seeking reaffirmation will submit the reaffirmation fee alongside the reaffirmation Self-Study. The fee covers the cost of the site visit.

If you have any questions related to fees, please email [feesaccred@cswe.org](mailto:feesaccred@cswe.org).

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## Fellowship Program Records

To maintain accurate records, the Department of Social Work Accreditation requests each existing or developing fellowship program complete the [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.

Please also consider sharing this newsletter with other post-master's social work fellowship programs in your network.

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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 9 members of the [Fellowship Review Committee \(FRC\)](#).

### **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. 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 an energizing year,

**CSWE Department of Social Work Accreditation  
Board of Accreditation**



*Photo: CSWE Staff & Board of Accreditation, June 2023*