

MEMORANDUM I

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO MEMBER SCHOOLS

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We are sending herewith data regarding the possible adoption by the Association of Schools of Professional Social Work of certain objective tests or standards as a basis for membership in the Association.

GENERAL STATEMENT

The Executive Committee is constantly faced with the problem of applications for admission to the Association from schools throughout the country. These schools are quite differently organized and there is very far from unanimity in the Executive Committee as to which, if any, of these schools should be admitted. Great difficulty arises in making decisions as to admission because the Association has never adopted any objective tests of educational standards which can be applied to schools seeking admission.

The following tests are submitted by the Executive Committee to the member schools as a basis for discussion at the Christmas meetings in Washington.

Several points arise:

- (1) Will the Association be willing to adopt these standards as a basis for the admission of new schools?
- (2) Will the Association be willing to require the School's already in the Association to come up to these standards within a certain period of time, e.g. two years?
- (3) Shall we set additional standards which all of the member schools shall be expected to reach within a longer period, e.g. five years?

The matter of standards in all professional schools of Social Work has become exigent because of the proposals of the Membership Committee of the American Association of Social Workers which subsequently involve a grading of the Schools as a basis for admitting former students to Association membership.

COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION
345 EAST 46th STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

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SUGGESTED STANDARDS FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS OF SOCIAL WORK

1. Length of Time Maintained

No Application shall be considered from a school until it has been in existence for at least two academic years.

2. Future Guarantee

The School must have a written guarantee of continued maintenance from a responsible institution or from responsible persons covering a period of not less than three years following the date of admission. (In general this will mean four years from the date of application for admission).

3. Admission Requirements for Students

No students shall be accepted for subjects in the professional curriculum who have not completed junior college work.

4. Curriculum

The curriculum must include the following professional courses: Principles of Case Work; Principles of Child Welfare Work; Provision for Field Work under a responsible agency, for not less than seven hours a week for two quarters. The curriculum must also include at least five of the following subjects: (1) Community Organization (2) Social Research (Medical Social Work) (4) Psychiatric Social Work (5) Administration of Social Agencies (6) Personnel Administration (7) Statistics (8) Public Welfare Administration. The academic work (exclusive of field work) shall occupy at least two quarters (6 months).

5. Members of the Faculty

Instruction in the above subjects shall be given by not less than two instructors employed on the basis of full time teaching.

6. Budget

The school must have an annual budget of not less than \$10,000 exclusive of expenditures for scholarships or administrative expenses.

7. Application for Admission to this Association

Application for admission may be made at any time but a period of at least six months must be allowed for consideration of the application. Applications therefore, must be made before July first, to be considered by the Association at the December meeting. Applications should be made on forms prepared for this purpose and should contain the above data submitted by the Director of the School.

MEMORANDUM B

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CENTERING AROUND PROBLEMS OF POLICY

Research belongs in a professional curriculum, both as theory and practice. No basis at present for evaluating or limiting pre-requisites. Is it desirable to utilize courses in other departments of a university rather than to set up professional courses within the department of social work? Does the suggested division of time permit adequate consideration of cultural courses? Is it possible to formulate measurements which can be applied alike to graduate and undergraduate schools? A summary of the discussion would seem to indicate:

1. Genuine interest and appreciation on the part of the Association of Schools in the statement prepared by the American Association of Social Workers. (Since this was not a business meeting no formal vote was taken).
2. A desire to help clarify paragraphs 1 and 2 in terms of hours rather than years, quarters, semesters.
3. The necessity of defining "background" and "technical" as used in paragraph three.
4. It was the sense of the discussion that the prerequisite requirement of 50 semester credits in background sciences is too high.
5. There was considerable question as to the possibility of eliminating background courses from the professional curricula of the Schools.
6. There was no agreement concerning the percent of time to be devoted to field work.
7. It was the sense of the discussion that paragraph 6 does not succeed in making clear the implications of "technical subjects". It was suggested that many courses in child welfare, the community, etc. are now given in such a way as to render them background, rather than technical courses.
8. Whatever purposes the A.A.S.W. report may fulfill, it has certainly provided a sharp challenge to the Association of Schools to outline standards in such a way as to make available for the A.A.S.W. facts and policies which should be available for them if they are to determine the meaning of membership in a professional organization.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45.

Margaret Leal,

Secretary.