



COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

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November 13, 2020

Samuel Minner, PhD
President
New Mexico Highlands University
President_Office@nmhu.edu

RE: *Reaffirm with a Progress Report*
New Mexico Highlands University (NM)
Master's Social Work Program (MSW)
2015 Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS)

Dear President Minner:

At its October 2020 meeting, the Commission on Accreditation (COA) reviewed the *Reaffirmation* application for the master's social work program. The COA voted to reaffirm the program's accreditation for eight years, ending in October 2028, with a *Progress Report* to be reviewed by the COA.

In taking this action, the Commission identified the following areas of concern:

Accreditation Standard 1.0.1: *The program submits its mission statement and explains how it is consistent with the profession's purpose and values.*

The program submitted its mission statement; however, the narrative did not clearly explain *how* the master's mission statement is consistent with each component of the profession's purpose and values as defined in the 2015 **EPAS**.

The program is asked to explain how its mission statement is consistent with the profession's purpose and values.

Accreditation Standard 1.0.2: *The program explains how its mission is consistent with the institutional mission and the program's context across all program options.*

The program submitted its mission statement; however, the narrative did not clearly explain *how* the master's mission statement is consistent with the institutional mission and the program's context, as defined in the 2015 **EPAS**, across all program options.

The program is asked to explain how its mission is consistent with the institutional mission and the program's context across all program options.

Accreditation Standard 1.0.3: *The program identifies its goals and demonstrates how they are derived from the program's mission.*

The program submitted its goals; however, the narrative did not clearly explain *how* the master's-level goals are derived from the program's mission.

The program is asked to identify its goals and demonstrate how they are derived from the program's mission.

Accreditation Standard M2.0.1: *The program explains how its mission and goals are consistent with generalist practice as defined in EP 2.0.*

The program submitted its mission statement and goals; however, the program did not clearly explain *how* its mission and goals are consistent with each component of generalist practice as defined in **EP 2.0**. Additionally, the narrative described the baccalaureate program rather than the master's program.

The program is asked to explain how its mission and goals are consistent with generalist practice as defined in **EP 2.0**.

Accreditation Standard 2.2.7: *The program describes how its field education program specifies policies, criteria, and procedures for selecting field settings; placing and monitoring students; supporting student safety; and evaluating student learning and field setting effectiveness congruent with the social work competencies.*

The program did not clearly delineate its field education program's policies, criteria, and procedures for supporting student safety.

The program is asked to describe how its field education program specifies policies, criteria, and procedures for supporting student safety.

Accreditation Standard M3.3.4(b): *The program provides documentation that the director has a full-time appointment to the social work master's program.*

The narrative affirmed the program director's appointment; however, the program did not provide documentation, such as a letter, stating that the director has a full-time appointment to the social work master's program.

The program is asked to provide documentation that the director has a full-time appointment to the social work master's program.

COA *Reaffirmation* decision types are described in [policy 2.6 in the EPAS Handbook](#).

Submit one (1) electronic copy of the report to Katie Gibson-Ledl, LLMSW-Macro, Accreditation Specialist in the Department of Social Work Accreditation, no later than August 1, 2021 for review during its October 2021 meeting.

Please be in touch if there are any questions about this letter or the procedures and actions of the Commission on Accreditation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deana F. Morrow". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Deana F. Morrow, PhD, LICSW, ACSW
Chair, Commission on Accreditation

DFM/KGL

Cc: Judith E. Barnstone, MSW, PhD
Associate Professor
New Mexico Highlands University
iebarnstone@nmhu.edu