

# **Annual Academic Assessment Report**

## **School of Social Work**

### **BSW Program & MSW Program**

**May 14, 2025**

The School of Social Work is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. We received reaccreditation in October of 2024 and will reapply for accreditation in 2031. We were accredited under the 2015 Educational Policy and Educational Standards (EPAS) for Baccalaureate and Master's Social Work Programs. However, the newest accreditation standards are now complete, and all accredited programs have until July 1, 2025, to adjust their curriculum, goals, and objectives to align with the 2022 EPAS for BSW and MSW Programs.

#### **Mission Statements**

In 2025 we updated our School, MSW Program, and BSW Program Mission Statements to align with the new accreditation standards.

#### **School of Social Work Mission Statement**

We are dedicated to fostering a community of culturally competent, anti-oppressive social work leader-practitioners. Through student-centered experiential learning, rigorous research, and committed community engagement, we prepare our students to become advocates for social and economic justice and equity. Our program integrates classroom knowledge with real-world application, embracing a Multi-Systems Life Course Perspective. We aim to empower social workers who will enhance the quality of life for vulnerable individuals, families, and communities both within Arkansas and globally, believing that through our efforts, Arkansas can truly be a land of opportunity for all.

#### **MSW Mission Statement:**

The mission of the MSW Program is to prepare culturally competent social workers who embody core social work values. Our program develops advanced leader-practitioners, through the integration of classroom, field education, and experiential learning who are prepared for empirically based practice using a Multi-Systems Life Course Perspective. Learning takes place within an intentional collaborative community that promotes inclusion to improve the quality of life for vulnerable persons, families, groups, organizations and communities in Arkansas and globally.

#### **BSW Mission Statement:**

The mission of the BSW Program is to prepare culturally competent social workers who embody core social work values. Our program develops generalist leader-practitioners prepared for empirically based and multi-system practice through the integration of classroom, field education, and experiential learning. Learning takes place within an intentional collaborative

community that promotes inclusion to improve the quality of life for vulnerable persons, families, groups, organizations and communities in Arkansas and globally.

### **Curriculum Review and Modifications**

The School of Social Work curriculum committee has been working over the past year to align our curriculum to the newest standards. They have completed a curriculum matrix for every core course across both the BSW and MSW programs that aligns each course's goals, objectives, readings, and assignments with the 2022 EPAS requirements. Syllabi have been updated to reflect the new accreditation standards with relevant readings and assignments. We took this opportunity to reduce the duplication of some reading and assignments. Many assignments were changed to infuse new and innovative assignments and learning opportunities.

### **Program Assessment Tools and Plan for 2025-2026**

Because of the change to the newest accreditation standards, a new assessment plan and new tools were needed to accommodate the changes. We had also decided as a faculty that the tools we were using were not adequately assessing student knowledge as they were written and being utilized. As such, we are changing the tools, but not the intervals at which we assess.

#### **BSW Program:**

Learning outcomes for BSW students are measured in Fall, Spring, and Summer and will include 2 measures. Each of these measures examines competencies in 9 domains and the scores are averaged across each other and presented in the aggregate.

1. The Final Field Evaluation Rubric
2. The Final Assignment in Practice III Rubric

#### **MSW Program:**

Learning outcomes for MSW students are measured in the Spring for both students graduating and not graduating (depending on the program) and will include 2 measures. Each of these measures examines competencies in 9 domains and the scores are averaged across each other and presented in the aggregate.

1. The Final Field Evaluation Rubric
2. The Capstone or Thesis Evaluation Rubric

An example of how the current assessments are calculated can be found on our webpage as required by CSWE: <https://socialwork.uark.edu/about-the-school/learning-outcomes.php>

These are updated at a minimum every 2 years. We update annually but needed this year to develop and refine the new curriculum and assessment instruments as explained above. The webpage and annual academic assessment report will be updated in May of 2026 to reflect the new instruments and processes.