



# Council for Standards in Human Service Education

*Assuring best practices in Human Service Education through  
evidence-based standards and a peer-review accreditation process*

<https://cshse.org>

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March 13, 2023

Dr. Nicole Kras, HS-BCP  
Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator  
Stella and Charles Guttman Community College  
50 West 40<sup>th</sup> St.  
New York City, NY 10018

Re: CSHSE Board accreditation decision

Dear Dr. Kras,

As CSHSE Vice President of Accreditation, I am pleased to inform you that the Human Services associate degree program at Stella and Charles Guttman Community College has received approval for initial accreditation by the CSHSE Board at the March 2023 board meeting. **The Human Services A.A. degree program is accredited with no conditions from February 2023-October 2028.**

The Readers and Site Visitors noted many strengths:

- The interdisciplinary Human Services program is supported by a community college designed to serve young adults immediately graduating from high school.
- The program is well organized with support systems to serve this specialized cohort of students: Career Strategist (advisor), HSVC Faculty and Staff, Fieldwork Agency Supervisor, Fieldwork Coordinator, and Fieldwork Associates (bachelor and master level students from local colleges and universities).
- The program is strongly supported by administration.
- The program uses a cohort model.
- The Fieldwork program serves as model program consisting of a dedicated full time placement manager, use of Field Associates, and a variety of placement sites available to the students.
- The program is supported by a large and diverse Advisory Board
- The program curriculum is aligned to the National Standards

### **Recommendations not related to the standard compliance**

The unique nature of the student population at Stella and Charles Guttman Community College presents exciting challenges with a two- year cohort program which educates and trains human service professionals who must rely on theory, knowledge, skills, and life experiences to serve vulnerable populations. The following are suggestions to consider as this program continues to grow and strengthen:

- The professional training of young adults immediately out of high school should take into consideration the emotional and social maturity levels of this cohort. Consider how this factor can be incorporated into the fitness for the profession policies and procedures when working with this 18-20 year old population. Consider how to assess students who may not be interested in this career early in the program, e.g., offer courses not related to direct services, career exploration course, course assignments, etc.
- Consider how the curriculum of human services courses is sequenced so that skill-based course preparation occurs before fieldwork placement. Fieldwork should be an environment where the student can apply the theory, knowledge, and skills that were previously learned.
- Consider how the program could expose students to the field of human services in the first year of the curriculum or at least prior to the second-year fieldwork experience.
- Consider program enrollment growth by creating a cohort of returning adults.

The next accreditation cycle will an Interim Report and Review with no site visit and must be completed for the February 2028 Board review. **A copy of this letter must be included in your next self-study.**

As an accredited program, the Program must regularly review information on the CSHSE website, <https://cshse.org>, for any new changes in policies and standards. Your program must use the standards that are in effect at the time when the application is submitted for the next cycle.

During this accreditation cycle, your accredited program has the responsibility to maintain active CSHSE membership each year of the accreditation cycle for the accreditation status to remain in good standing. Refer to Member Handbook, Accreditation and Self-Study Guidelines for updated information. Additionally, the accredited program shall ensure that the program representative contact information remains current with CSHSE and is updated as needed.

Please refer to the Board actions for maintaining accreditation in Appendix I of the Member Handbook. Your Program must ensure that program and student achievement indicators on the CSHSE website remain accurate (within 2 years of the current academic year) and the hyperlinks remain active. The CSHSE will review this information at each board meeting during the year: February, June, and October. Contact the CSHSE VPA if a hyperlink must be revised so that our website is current with your program information.



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Congratulations on becoming an accredited program with the Council for Standards in Human Service Education and supporting quality and excellence in human service education.

A formal certificate, signed by our President, Dr. Yvonne Chase, will be forthcoming.

Sincerely,

*Winona Schappell*

Winona Schappell  
CSHSE Vice President of Accreditation  
PO Box 924  
Fogelsville, PA 18051  
610-295-3223

Cc: Dr. Daniel Collins, Acting Dean of Faculty and Academic Affairs  
Dr. Nicole Blake, Interim VP of Academic Affairs and Provost  
Dr. Nicole Jackson Walker, CSHSE Treasurer, Lead Reader/Site Visitor  
Dr. Yvonne Chase, CSHSE President