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
3337 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-5219
571-257-3959

Yvonne M. Chase, PhD, LCSW, ACSW
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University of Alaska

Winona Schappell, MEd, HS-BCP
Vice President Accreditation
Lehigh Carbon Community College (ret.)

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Katherine Pauling, PhD, LPC, CAADC
Public Member
Alabama Dept. of Mental Health

November 11, 2020

Wendy St. Pierre, Faculty Accreditation Coordinator
Mental Health and Human Services Program
University of Maine at Augusta
46 University Drive
Augusta, Maine, 04330-3360

Dear Ms. St. Pierre,

It is my privilege to inform you that the Mental Health and Human Services baccalaureate degree program at University of Maine at Augusta has received initial accreditation by the Council for Standards in Human Service Education (CSHSE) for the period October 2020 through October 2025.

The CSHSE board approved accreditation with no conditions.

PROGRAM STRENGTHS
The readers of your self-study have identified the following strengths of your program including:

- The program provides a solid theoretical foundation.
- The program has a robust fieldwork component with excellent communication between faculty, site supervisors, and students.
- The program has been in existence for 22 years
- The curriculum has been restructured to meet the needs of the students.
- The program is supported with qualified faculty.
- Faculty's research capabilities have increased due to a large grant.
- The program has access to an extensive virtual database which is part of a statewide consortium.
- Faculty have years of practice experience and bring different areas of expertise to the program.
- The advisory committee members are very supportive of the program.
- Students commented on the relevancy of the course curriculum.
- The program attracts graduates who return to enroll in the certificate programs, which are well regarded across the state.
- The program supports an active student club.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS
These recommendations are for consideration and relate to ways that the program might enhance compliance with a Standard or relate to important program issues that are not included in the Standards.

- The program requires all sections of a course to have the same format (e.g. all face to face, or all online, etc.) which eliminates options for students.

During 2020, CSHSE revised accreditation site visit policies as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic: All programs which require a site visit between April 2020

through June 2021 will complete a virtual site visit. This policy changes the accreditation conditions outlined on page 9 of the 2020 Membership Handbook. All programs completing virtual site visits during this time period will have a restructured ten-year accreditation cycle. A regular reaccreditation cycle will begin at the next accreditation cycle instead of the Interim Report and Review.

This program completed a virtual site visit as part of the initial accreditation process.   At the next accreditation cycle in October 2025, the program will conduct a reaccreditation with a site visit. Five years later, the program will conduct an Interim Report and Review process in which there is no site visit. Five years later, the program will conduct a reaccreditation with a site visit. The 10-year cycle will repeat in that order.

The next accreditation will include a site visit and must be completed for the October 2025 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 ASCENT Management, LLC 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, February, June, and October. Contact the CSHSE VPA or ASCENT Management, LLC if a hyperlink must be revised so that our website is current with your program information.

Congratulations on becoming an accredited program with the Council for Standards in Human Service Education. A formal certificate, signed by our President, Dr. Yvonne Chase, will be forthcoming.

Very sincerely,

Winona Schappell

Winona Schappell, M.Ed., HS-BCP
CSHSE Vice President of Accreditation

Cc: Dr. Joseph Szakas, Vice President of Academic Affairs/Provost
         Dr. Brenda McAleer, Dean, College of Professional Studies and Associate Provost
         Dr. Yvonne Chase, CSHSE President and Lead Reader