



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

Elaine R. Green, Ed.D., HS-BCP
President
Chestnut Hill College

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

Lynne Kellner, PhD, Lic Psych.
Vice President Publications
Fitchburg State University

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ACSW
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LPC, DCC, HS-BCP
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Katherine Pickens, PhD, LPC, CAADC
Public Member
Alabama Dept. of Mental Health

October 29, 2018

Dr. Yvonne Chase
Human Services Program
University of Alaska-Anchorage
3211 Providence Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99508

Dear Dr. Chase,

It is my privilege to inform you that the Human Services associate degree program at the University of Alaska-Anchorage has been reaccredited by the Council for Standards in Human Service Education (CSHSE) for the period of October 2018 through October 2023.

PROGRAM STRENGTHS

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

- A diverse and qualified staff
- Purposely aligned program to the CSHSE standards and the field of Human Services
- Effectively uses feedback from the Advisory Committee
- Maintains current with emerging trends in the field
- Superior assessment plan
- Strong policy and procedures for addressing a student's fitness for the field
- A strong field experience curriculum component that includes the presence of a Practicum Specialist position and clear policies.
- Standardization of the course syllabi in which course objectives are aligned to the Standards

REQUIREMENTS FOR NEXT ACCREDITATION

The following requirements, related to the standards, will need to be remediated for the next reaccreditation:

Standard 2 a Provide a succinct philosophical statement that becomes the conceptual framework for the curriculum.

The submitted philosophical statement "First Theory-Then Practice" was considered overly succinct and lacking definition and appears more as a slogan. The recommendation "to develop a more informative philosophical statement" was made in the 2013 VPA letter. **Develop and provide a succinct general and distinctive philosophical orientation which provides the conceptual framework for the curriculum.**

RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO THE STANDARDS:

The following recommendations, although not required, are submitted for your consideration:

Standard 4c 1. The program must routinely provide reliable information to the public on its performance, including student achievement. [NOTE: This Specification relates to the need for transparency about a program's performance outcomes and student achievement (Specifications a. and b.)] Provide the following:

1. Mechanisms used to share evaluative data with internal and external stakeholders. [NOTE: Program performance data and student outcomes, must, at minimum, be posted on the program's website, and the links must be included in the Self-Study narrative.]

Although the link was active, the title of the link, Accreditation, is not clear as to the information that is linked. **Consider renaming the link to Student Achievement Indicators to be congruent with the CSHSE webpage nomenclature.**

Standard 20 c Demonstrate that students are exposed to human services agencies and clients (assigned visitation, observation, assisting staff, etc.) early in the program.

In the narrative, the program noted that practicum experiences began in the third semester. Since this is only a four semester / 2 year program, this was not deemed as "early." **The program must demonstrate exposure earlier in the program documented by course syllabi, assignments, or other documents.**

All Standards: Referencing multipage document

Readers noted specific issues of verifying compliance with Standards 5b, c; and 10a, due to the references in multipage documents. **To ensure that the Readers can ascertain compliance with the standards, the Program should provide direct links to documents, paginate multipage documents, and reference a specific page for the reader to locate the information in a multipage documents.**

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations, although not required, are submitted for your consideration:

- **Consider developing an alumni database as was noted by the program in the self-study.**

The readers noted that the self-study was written clearly and thoroughly. Readers lauded the use of charts and graphical representations of student demographics. The self-study was easy to navigate between the narrative and appendices.

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. The Associate degree Standards have been revised effective July 1, 2018 and they are different than the one used for this accreditation cycle. The Program must use the Standards that are in effect 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. (Membership Handbook, Accreditation and Self-Study Guidelines, July 2018, p. 8). Additionally, the accredited program shall ensure that the program representative contact information remains current with ASCENT Management, LLC and CSHSE and is updated as needed. Your Program must also ensure that program and student achievement indicator links on the CSHSE website remain accurate and active. Contact the CSHSE VPA or ASCENT Management, LLC if a hyperlink must be revised. Student Achievement Indicator data that is made public must be remain current.



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Assuring the quality, consistency, and relevance of human service education programs.

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A copy of this letter must accompany your self-study in the next accreditation cycle which will be a reaccreditation with a site visit.

Congratulations on continuing as one of our long standing accredited programs. A formal certificate, signed by our President Elaine Green, will be forthcoming.

Sincerely,

Winona Schappell

Winona Schappell, M.Ed., HS-BCP
CSHSE Vice President of Accreditation
PO Box 924
Fogelsville, PA 18051
610-295-3223
winona.schappell@gmail.com

Cc: Mr. Jeff Jessee, Dean, UAA College of Health
Mr. John Stalvey, UAA Interim Provost
Dr. Elaine Green, CSHSE President
Dr. Narketta Sparkman-Key, Lead Reader