



Date: February 21, 2020

To: John Stalvey, Interim Provost

From: Jeff Jessee, Dean of the College of Health and Vice Provost of Health Programs

Cc: Kathi Trawver, Committee Chair & Professor of Social Work
David Moxley, Director, School of Social Work
Alexa Flianowicz, Term Assistant Professor of Social Work

Re: AY20 Expedited Program Review Findings

Program/s in this review: Social Work BSW

Specialized accrediting agency (if applicable): The Social Work BSW is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

Campuses where the program is delivered: Anchorage

Centrality of Program Mission and Supporting Role:

The mission of the Social Work BSW is to prepare generalist social workers who enhance human well-being and promote social and economic justice for people of all backgrounds, particularly those in Alaska. The program offers students an intensive professional development program incorporating theory, skill development, practicum experiences, a cohort-based experience, and a practice-focused integrative capstone. Graduates of the program fill Alaska's social service and behavioral health workforce needs. The Social Work BSW also offers an accelerated pathway to the Social Work MSW. There is a strong need for baccalaureate trained social workers to address the many social and behavioral health problems that continue to wreak havoc on people and communities throughout Alaska. The Social Work BSW is central to the College of Health's mission to improve the health and wellbeing of people and communities in Alaska.

Program Demand (including service to other programs), Efficiency, and Productivity:

During this review period, the number of degrees has remained stable, averaging 25.4 per year. The number of majors is low (averaging 29.6 students), but that is because students do not transition from the pre-major to the major until their senior year. When pre-majors are included, the number of students averages 120 to 140. The program generates a significant amount of tuition revenue. On average, tuition revenue covers 95% of the instructional costs. This is a good return on investment. In addition, faculty generate a significant amount of external funding from its workforce development programs and its research and evaluation. Overall, program demand has been consistently strong. The program has also demonstrated consistently high efficiency and productivity.

Program Quality, Improvement and Student Success:

The Social Work BSW offers a competency-based program with a considerable emphasis on service learning, case study models, and practicum. High impact teaching practices are implemented throughout the curriculum. The program's assessment work is outstanding. Faculty regularly assess both the explicit and implicit curriculum. Program revisions are regularly implemented and assessed. Assessment data clearly show that program quality is high. The program also maintains strong community partnerships that provide students opportunities for service-learning, research, and evaluation. In particular, the Social Work BSW has a very strong partnership with the State of Alaska Office of Children's Services. Overall, the Social Work BSW demonstrates a very strong commitment to improvement and student success.

Program Duplication / Distinctiveness:

A Social Work BSW is also available at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The UAA and UAF programs have a different focus, with the UAA program focusing on urban and rural-hub social work practice and the UAF program focusing on rural-remote social work practice with indigenous populations. The UAA program also has a unique focus on research.

Commendations and Recommendations:

The Social Work BSW is a high-quality program that makes a significant contribution to the College of Health mission. Graduates are well prepared to significantly improve the health and wellbeing of people and communities. The program should clearly be continued. Enhancement may be needed soon to further develop the School of Social Work's focus on prevention practice in child welfare, substance use treatment, violence prevention and mitigation, severe and persistent mental illness, and Veteran health. As the School of Social Work grows to address additional social service and behavioral health workforce needs, both in Anchorage and statewide, additional resources will be needed. The School of Social Work should plan for growth in collaboration with its partners at other MAUs and community campuses. Together, they should create a consolidated plan for social work education in Alaska.

Decision:

Continuation.