

Approved Social Work Program Policy

Introduction

Section 10(1) of the *Social Work Profession Act* provides 3 routes of entry for applicants to the College. The second of these registration routes indicates that:

To qualify for registration as a social worker under this Act, an applicant must

- (a) produce to the registrar satisfactory evidence that he or she*
- ii. has successfully completed any other education program approved by the board*

Eligibility

The Manitoba College of Social Workers will consider approval of social work degree programs equivalent to a 4-year university level program that are not accredited by the Canadian Association for Social Work Education in the following categories:

1. accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).
2. accredited by the National Indigenous Accreditation Board (NIAB), or
3. a social work degree program deemed to be consistent with, and in keeping with, the general Canadian Association for Social Work Education (CASWE) standards for accredited BSW and MSW programs

Category 1:

CSWE programs are accepted as systematically evaluated and are not subject to any additional accreditation assessment.

Category 2:

NIAB programs are accepted as systematically evaluated and are not subject to any additional accreditation assessment.

Category 3:

Programs seeking to become or renew their status as a MCSW Approved program in this category must demonstrate the following criteria:

1. The program is part of a university that has the power to grant post-secondary degrees by authority of the provincial government.
2. The vision, mission and values identified and implemented by the program and its related educational institute are consistent with the vision, mission and values of MCSW.
3. A measurable commitment to high level teaching, research, scholarship, academic inquiry and service to the community.
4. A governance model that facilitates structured decision-making, transparency and collaborative partnerships with Faculty, students and community stakeholders.
5. Qualified faculty and professional staff who have recognized competence and/or expertise in their respective areas. Eligible social work Faculty and staff delivering or supervising the program are Registered Social Workers, exceptions considered at the discretion of the Registrar.
6. Successful completion of regular and ongoing formal program evaluation, which includes input from external stakeholders.
7. Its curriculum includes social work subject areas consistent with the Canadian Association for Social Work Education.
8. The program's practicum hours are consistent with CASWE and/or CSWE requirements.
9. The program has provided information on its website regarding its current accreditation status with CASWE and the limitations of that status or lack thereof.

A university level social work program seeking to become an MCSW Approved program must submit a written application with the application fee including a letter of intent and a Self-Study Report. The Self-Study report should include the following:

- An Executive Summary
- An outline of how the program is consistent with, and in keeping with, the general CASWE standards for accredited BSW and MSW programs, or programs accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)
- The program's mission and goals
- The program's governance, structure and resources
- The program's curriculum and field education
- The program's evaluation and assessment methods
- A formal self-study of how the program meets the criteria for Approved Programs

If the application is successful, approved programs must enter into a written Memorandum of Understanding with the College before their approval is activated. The MOU will be considered for renewal every one (1) to eight (8) years as determined by the College or at any time that the educational program substantially changes, or issues of concern regarding the program arise as determined by the Registrar. The terms of an MOU with an approved educational program will include the criteria for acceptance, as well as any other relevant criteria for any specific program.

If the Board of the College does not grant or renew approval of a social work educational program seeking such approval, it shall set out its detailed reasons in writing with reference to the required program criteria.

Following issuance of its decision, the College Board shall receive within 30 days any additional information or evidence from the educational program seeking approval which addresses any matters of significance contained in the College decision. The College will consider any additional information provided; however, there is no right of appeal from an educational program seeking approval with MCSW.

Approved programs may not be renewed if they no longer meet the above criteria for approval. The College will not register applicants who were enrolled in a year in which a program was not approved.

Additional Requirements

Applicants who have graduated from a program that is not accredited by CASWE/CSWE/NIAB (Category 3 above) are required to successfully complete the Association of Social Work Boards exam in accordance with the Manitoba College of Social Workers administrative policies. (Effective from approval date of this policy and not retroactive for existing registrants).

Enactment:

Programs previously approved by the College on the date this policy takes effect will remain approved until the completion of the first review, at a timeframe to be determined by the Registrar.

References:

- 1. Social Work Profession Act (2009) – Section 10(1)(a)(ii)**
- 2. Social Work Profession Act Regulation (2014) – Reg. 4 - 10**
- 3. CASWE Standards for Accreditation, Revised and Approved, Aug. 2014**
- 4. CSWE Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards, Updated Aug. 2012**
- 5. Mutual Recognition Agreement Between CSWE and CASSW (now CASWE), June, 2006**
- 6. Agreement Between NIAB and CASWE on Mutual Honouring of Accredited Degrees, October 29, 2019**

Approved by the MCSW Board of Directors June 20, 2019

Revised by the MCSW Board of Directors April 18, 2023; revised June 18, 2026