

Specialized Accreditors and Employer Engagement

COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

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Who are Social Work Employers?

- ▶ 1. Public Agencies at the state and local level
- ▶ 2. Private, non-profit social service agencies
- ▶ 3. Private, for-profit social service agencies
- ▶ 4. Government
- ▶ 5. Hospitals, clinics and other health care organizations
- ▶ 6. Advocacy organizations and political work

Specialty Areas for Practice

- ▶ Children, youth and families
- ▶ Older Adults and their families
- ▶ Mental Health
- ▶ Chemical Dependency
- ▶ Health Care
- ▶ Advocacy
- ▶ Forensics and Criminal Justice
- ▶ Developmental Disabilities
- ▶ Policy Practice
- ▶ Research

Why engage employers?

- ▶ Awareness of the competencies expected by employers across the spectrum of practice
- ▶ Knowledge of trends that affect practice (e.g. technological advances)
- ▶ Understanding of changes in practice and social conditions that could inform curriculum content (e.g. policy changes in health care delivery, opioid crisis)
- ▶ Outcome: Graduates are better prepared for practice

How do we collect employer data?

Environmental Scanning

- ▶ 1. Workforce studies with surveys to graduates of BSW and MSW programs who are now employed in social work settings
- ▶ 2. Review workforce studies from NASW
- ▶ 3. Review Bureau of Labor and Statistics data about future needs
- ▶ 4. Request online feedback from employers on new sets of proposed standards
- ▶ 5. Include employers in focus groups for feedback about standards
- ▶ 6. Include social work licensing board staff in process

What do we with the data?

- ▶ Commission on Accreditation reviews social work competencies for consistency with current practice based on data
- ▶ Competency descriptions are adjusted to reflect data (e.g. added inter-professional practice to many competency descriptions in 2015 standards)
- ▶ Programs review curricula and field practicum placements for ability to prepare competent practitioners and make changes as needed
- ▶ Programs evaluate the effectiveness of their program to prepare students for practice, using real practice situations to do so.