

# Evaluation Report for Program Review Face to Face Meeting University of Wisconsin-Whitewater: Social Work (MSW), 2023- 2024

**Date:** 3/4/2024

**Invited:** Provost John Chenoweth; Associate Dean Jason Janke (Letters and Sciences); Dean Matthew Vick (Graduate Studies); Department Chair/Program Coordinator Yeongmin Kim; faculty and staff in the program; Audit & Review Team Chair Lynn Gilbertson; Audit & Review team members Christine Neddenriep and Pavan Chennamaneni; Assessment Representative Katy Casey

## Overview of review team evaluation, program comments:

- Review team chair Dr. Gilbertson reviewed the team's evaluation of the program, highlighting strengths of the program.

## Discussion of Review Team's evaluation:

1 – Can you provide a description of the course sequence and credit hours to demonstrate how courses build on one another and lead to the final capstone experience?

The program chair, Dr. Kim, noted that enrollment exceeded the program's expectation when first launched.

Curriculum is of high quality to meet accreditation standards. In addition, the accrediting body does have class size requirements.

2 – Has the program identified any barriers to student progress/retention through the program?

The program has not noticed any issues or barriers to students' progressing through the program. They have been able to offer financial support for internships over the past few years, but the grant funding for that is going away. The faculty and staff are unsure if that will impact participation. The department is reviewing employment-based field opportunities to accommodate students currently in a position that could meet accreditation requirements.

The faculty commented on the amount of work that is required outside of traditional work hours to run a program that caters to working professionals. Maintaining an evening course sequence has drawn students to the program.

### 3 – Has the program explored ways to reduce the significant credit load for students on the traditional track (with no previous degree in social work)?

Discussion ensued about whether students could use work-based or credit for prior learning to count toward MSW. The accrediting body does not allow for students to use work-based experiences for credit toward courses in the degree.

### 4 - How does the program use the ASWB exam in determining competencies for students? Is there a benefit in making it a requirement for all students?

Candidates for licensure need to pass the ASWB exam to be licensed in the state of Wisconsin. However, the accrediting body does not allow programs to use the ASWB as a requirement for program completion. Therefore, the program does support students in preparing for the exam but will not require it as part of their MSW program. The exam is only supported by the program due to the licensure requirement, and the program staff do not feel the exam to be an accurate reflection of skills in the field. There is also discussion of this exam being replaced with an alternate option in the state of Wisconsin.

## Recommended Actions:

### Recommended Action #1

Provide an update on short and long-term goals in section III by highlighting a timeline of achievement and/or sustainability.

### Recommended Action #2

Review course offerings (modality, sequence, enrollment) to identify areas for optimizing existing resources to support faculty retention/recruitment, student enrollment/retention, and instructional space/tech needs.

### Recommended Action #3

When sharing assessment results, include a description of how the program addresses competencies that were not met by students.

## Recommended Result:

Continuation without qualification

## Next Self-Study and/or Progress Report Due Dates:

1 - Next SHORT self-study will be due to the Dean on May 1, 2032 and to the Assessment Office on August 1, 2032

*For a copy of the full evaluation report and detailed comments, please reach out to the assessment office: [assessment@uww.edu](mailto:assessment@uww.edu).*