

Evaluation Report for Program Review Face to Face Meeting University of Wisconsin-Whitewater: Social Work (BA, BS) Majors and Minors, 2023-2024

Date: 3/4/2024

Invited: Provost John Chenoweth; Dean Jason Janke (Letters and Sciences); Department Chair/Program Coordinator Yeongmin Kim; faculty and staff in the program; Audit & Review Team Chair Kim Kostka; Audit & Review team members Russ Kashian; Assessment Representative Katy Casey

Overview of review team evaluation, program comments:

The review team chair, Dr. Kostka, provided a summary of the review team's evaluation and highlighted the strengths and significant work put forth by the program to maintain accreditation and licensure guidelines.

She also noted that the Social Work department was one of the first programs to work collaboratively with Rock to deliver programming at the Rock campus.

Discussion of Review Team's evaluation:

1 – The team applauds your work to create an entirely online BSW program. Can you tell us more about the bounce-back in enrollments and the distribution of students in the online program as compared to the in-person program?

The program was mindful to create an opportunity for students who may not have a social work option in their state, or for non-traditional students. The online option has created opportunities for students who completed an associate degree and are looking to complete their program of study. In some cases, students attend UWW because of articulation agreements allowing them to get full credit for their associates. Partnerships with other 2-year campuses through articulation agreements are also increasing enrollment to the online program.

The program noted the online options were not listed on any online program list for UWW or Universities of WI. The Provost noted the reason was because the current offerings in Social Work are not asynchronous and would need to be in order to be listed on the portal.

The program noted concern about marketing a program to the extent that it attracts a large number of students and then enrolling a number that allows the program to maintain quality.

The Provost recommended full transparency among the department faculty and staff on teaching and advising loads to understand workloads. The department is encouraged to continue looking for efficiencies in meeting the instruction and advising loads due to the number of curricular offerings.

2 – We noticed there wasn't any detail about retention and graduation rates. Can you tell us more about that?

UG is used as a recruitment tool for the MSW. Dr. Kim provided an additional document of retention and graduation rates. The program explained that the staffing is at this point over-extended with current enrollment and has been hiring adjunct staff to address the need.

3 – Are you noticing a difference in performance and retention in the online students compared to that for students in the face-to-face program?

The program tracks their students' performance on competencies for online vs face-to-face and finds that all students in the online modality perform below those in the face-to-face modality.

Recommended Actions:

Recommended Action #1

Continue with goal setting to address marketing, advising, recruitment and enrollment. The program identified these areas that need attention in the coming years.

Recommended Action #2

Include timelines for meeting program goals as a way to track progress.

Recommended Action #3

Work with college/university to develop a clear plan for growth or to determine the optimal size of the program, especially given the pressures on the staff.

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.