



Item: AS:A-4

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Thursday, June 5, 2014

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM - DOCTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

To request the approval of a new academic program:

CIP 44.0701 (DSW) Doctorate of Social Work

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The College for Design and Social Inquiry proposes a new professional Doctorate in Social Work. This program will be an advanced clinical practice degree emphasizing evidence-based clinical social work services provided to individuals, families, and groups, especially in health and mental health care settings. This program will prepare students for leadership roles in clinical social work, including specialized clinical assessments, psychosocial interventions, clinical supervision, and education. If approved, the proposed degree program will be presented to the Florida Board of Governors for approval with a planned implementation date of Fall, 2015.

The Pre-Proposal was unanimously approved by BOG Committee of Vice Presidents, October 2013 and FAU University Faculty Senate on April 20, 2014.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The final five year E&G cost after the total of four faculty members are hired, percentage of additional support staff and advisor are added, will be \$443,376.

Supporting Documentation: Executive Summary

**Presented by: Dr. Rosalyn Carter, Dean, College for Design and Social Inquiry
Dr. Michele Hawkins, Associate Provost for Assessment and Programs**

Phone: 561-297-4365

Request to Offer the Doctorate of Social Work (DSW)

Background of School Proposing New Program

The FAU School of Social Work faculty, students and alumni have a long and well-respected history in the local community. BSW program began in the early 1980's. The program now enrolls approximately 595 students on the Davie, Boca and Jupiter campuses. The MSW program started in 2000 with 17 students and has grown to over 250 students today.

The students are vital participants in the community. Students in the BSW and MSW programs donate over 166,000 hours to community agencies annually through their internships. These service hours are estimated to provide over \$3,486,000 to the south Florida region between counties of Indian River and Miami Dade. It is from this academic foundation that the DSW program will be launched if approved.

New Program Description and Relationship to System-Level Goals

- (a) The School of Social Work proposes a Doctorate of Social Work (DSW) program.
- (b) This program will be an advanced clinical practice degree emphasizing evidence-based clinical social work services provided to individuals, families, and groups, especially in health and mental health care settings. This program will prepare students for leadership roles in clinical social work, including specialized clinical assessments, psychosocial interventions, clinical supervision, and education.
- (c) DSW students must complete a minimum of 50 credits to qualify for their degree (An MSW from an accredited program is required for admission to the DSW program).
- (d) The program prepares graduates for leadership roles in advanced clinical social, clinical supervision, and social work education (as clinical faculty for schools of social work teaching various levels of clinical practice). A DSW degree differs from a PhD in Social Work, in that a PhD is primarily a research-oriented degree preparing graduates for advanced research and academic positions that are research intensive. A DSW degree includes practice-oriented research and evaluation that focuses on preparing students for innovative, complex, and sophisticated areas of practice (i.e., evidence-based practices in areas that focus on the health and mental health needs of populations in south Florida). Graduates from this program will be able to take leadership roles in health, mental health, and educational settings, as well as generate a body of clinical social work practice research. The practice focus of a DSW degree is similar to that of advanced practice degrees offered in other professional disciplines such as psychology (Psy.D.), nursing (DNP), pharmacy (PharmD), physical therapy (DPT), and nutrition (DSN).

Relationship to Institutional and State University System Missions

The new program is consistent with Florida Atlantic University and State University Systems Missions. The DSW is a response to **evolving and emerging critical health needs** in the Florida, as well as, across the nation. The DSW will address the critical need of providing effective health and mental health services. A 2009 report by the Florida Center for Fiscal and Economic Policy found, "Of the 325,000 adults with severe and persistent mental illness in Florida, only 42 percent receive state mental health services at the current funding level. The situation for Florida children is also poor. Fifty-two percent of children with mental illness receive care in Florida, compared to 60 percent nationally" (Mental Health Funding at Risk, Center for Public Integrity, Florida Council for Community and Mental Health, March 9, 2011). To meet the need to treat the numbers of Floridians with mental illness, the DSW will provide highly specialized doctoral level practitioners to provide effective evidence based clinical services, to plan and evaluate programs and services, to teach in baccalaureate and graduate programs, and to provide evidenced-based practice research.

The program will provide direct services to the local community through research and **community partnerships**. The DSW program will help the School of Social Work develop additional partnerships with health and mental health service providers in the community, in order to develop and evaluate new responses to psychosocial health needs. The research within the DSW program will have an applied focus; so various mental health and social service providers will value the research results.

This program will increase **collaboration and external support for research activity**:

- By having a doctoral program, our current faculty will be able to apply for and attract more outside funding. Some funders require applicants to have doctoral programs. Further, the program will be able to attract more faculty members interested in applying for outside funding.
- The DSW program will allow us to promote greater collaboration with private industry on research projects (including service providers for health, mental health, addictions, children's services, and services for the elderly).
- With implementation of the new Affordable Care Act, social workers are playing more important roles in health care services. This is especially true in the area of mental health. In the United States, clinically trained social workers provide over 60% of mental health services. Social workers also play a key role in medical care, for instance, reducing re-admissions to hospitals after surgery or other invasive procedures (<http://www.naswdc.org/pressroom/features/issue/mental.asp>).

Due to the high demand of social workers, research, education and training grants will be made available to institutions of higher education to support recruitment and education of social work students for high need and high demand areas at the Baccalaureate, Masters and Doctoral levels. Grants will also be available for faculty development, which will include DSW graduates

(Source: <http://www.socialworkreinvestment.org/content/SWRI-FL-27808-SWRI-SummaryWeb.pdf>).

Need and Demand

Once approved, this DSW program will be **first in Florida and the fourth in the nation**. Other currently operating DSW programs in the USA are offered through University of Tennessee, Rutgers University, and University of Pennsylvania. The consultant hired to review this proposal for this program stated that this program would bring national recognition to the FAU School of Social Work.

The DSW concentrates on developing advanced clinical social work skills along with applied research skills that advances evidence-based clinical practice. The need for social workers with advanced practice credentials were ascertained by the following:

- The FAU School of Social Work conducted a national survey of schools of social work and found that 95% of programs looking for tenure or tenure-track positions would consider a candidate with a DSW (the other programs would only consider candidates who had a PhD). Among those schools considering candidates with DSWs, candidates with DSWs were often preferred for teaching clinical practice courses in BSW and MSW programs. (Barsky, A. E., Green, D., & Ayayo, M. (2013). Hiring priorities for BSW/MSW programs in the United States: Informing doctoral programs about current needs, 13(2), 1-21. *Journal of Social Work*. doi:10.1177/1468017313476772).
- The Board of Governors Workforce Gap Analysis reported that Medical and Public Health Social Workers were the 3rd fastest growing occupation in Florida. This report also included the need for professional counseling degrees that include social work (Board of Governors Meeting, April 28, 2014).
- The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) state employment of healthcare social workers is expected to grow by 34%, and 31% in the area of mental health and substance abuse; much faster than the average for all occupations. (<http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos060.htm>).
- The 2014 Florida Legislature recognized the need for an educated workforce by passing a bill which will require 50% of the Department of Children and Family child abuse and neglect investigators to have a BSW or MSW (up from 6%). Persons with DSW's will be needed to work with the overhaul of agencies locally and statewide as this transition is made. Among its many goals, this legislation will provide additional resources for social work education and research.
- The FAU School of Social Work has done a thorough assessment of need and demand for a DSW program locally. First, the School conducted a survey of agency social workers that supervise BSW/MSW students in their field placements (11/20/2011). Of the respondents (n=50), 40% stated they would be interested in obtaining a clinical DSW. Second, responses on the graduating student surveys and alumni surveys for the MSW program, respondents have continuously requested further specialization in clinical social work through a doctoral level program. This interest has been consistently reported since the first graduating class in 2002. Recently, in a representative sampling of FAU's MSW students in the fall semester of 2013, interest ranged from 30% to 40% of students in current classes.

As indicated above, the growth of the profession of social work is expanding nationally and statewide at a rapid pace. This DSW program will provide the education and training in advance clinical social work for the expanding workforce needs

Curriculum

Minimum of 50 credits (14 three-credit & 2 four-credit courses) are required for degree completion. The courses in this program offer the DSW student the opportunity to engage in an area of clinical practice and research at the individual, group, couple, or family level. As noted below, in-depth consideration is provided in these courses to the micro and mezzo levels. Much of the clinical practice and research that will be done by doctoral-level practitioners will require further specialization and knowledge/skill acquisition for advanced clinical practice with populations in need in Florida, such as those with substance usage concerns and mental health diagnoses (psychopathology). To ensure maximum marketability for the DSW graduate, courses in social work education and clinical social work supervision/administration are included.

Costs

The costs of the DSW in the first year are \$235,582 for 2 faculty, expenses, and AMP salaries. By the 5th year the additional costs will include the hiring of two more faculty and additional associated costs amounting to \$443,376. The offset of this degree is the number of students that can be enrolled at one time compared to other doctoral programs that require PhD intensive dissertations. This degree is considered a relatively low cost doctoral degree as it can admit 20 to 30 students per year when fully operating with the expectation of a three to four year graduation rate.

Proposal for the Doctorate of Social Work: The DSW

Presented to Board of Trustees
June 5, 2014

Making Waves

Outline for Presentation

- I. Background
- II. Comparison of DSW To PhD
- III. Need
- IV. Proposed Curriculum
- V. Cost
- VI. Conclusion

Making Waves

I. Background

- FAU School of Social Work
- BSW since 1980 with few students now has over 595 students
- MSW since 2000 with 17 students now has over 250 students
- Students annually provide 166,000 hours of service to local community worth approximately \$3,486,000

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II. Comparison of DSW to PhD

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| • DSW (clinical) | • PhD |
| • Advanced Clinical Skills (similar to DNP PharmP, DPT) | • Primarily research orientated- preparing graduates for advanced research in academia or other research intensive positions |
| • Includes practice oriented research and evaluation | |

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III. Need for Proposed DSW

- Part of school's strategic plan 2011
- Surveyed field instructors, mental health agencies, students, alumni to determine need
- Results indicated overwhelming requests for advanced clinical practice degree in social work in local area
- Passed Committee of Vice Presidents (CAVP) unanimously by all State Universities Fall, 2013

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Workforce and Economic Development Needs

- The Bureau of Labor Statistics state overall employment of social workers is expected to grow by 25 percent from 2010 to 2020.
- The job market is favorable for specialized practitioners, especially in the fields of aging and mental health needs.
- An MSW is the minimum requirement for positions involving clinical social work. DSW's bring advanced clinical practice skills to clients and agencies.
- DSW's are expected to raise the standards in child welfare, aging and other clinical practice areas.

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IV. Proposed Curriculum

- Complete a minimum of 50 credit hours post MSW
- Students can focus in area of clinical practice with specialization areas
- Includes classes in social work education and supervision/administration
- Proposed Delivery Mode:
 - Hybrid: 1 Weekend a month & 30% on line

Making Waves

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V. Costs

- Year 1: Part Time – Two Faculty Hired
- Year 2: Full Time - Two More Faculty Hired
 - By Year 5: \$443,376 which will include four faculty, expenses, AMP
- *Considered low cost doctoral degree because when fully functioning can admit 20-30 students annually with expected 3 year graduation rate (compared to PhD in Social Work admissions of 3-5 students with 4-5 year graduation rate with graduate assistantships).*

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The DSW Program Prepares:

- Advanced Clinical Practitioners
- Clinical Research Practitioners using evidence-based practice
- Advanced Clinical Leaders who develop standards of care for diverse populations
- Clinical Faculty for BSW/MSW programs

Making Waves

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Questions?

Making Waves