



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON

College of Health & Human Development

Dean's Office

P.O. Box 6868, Fullerton, CA 92834/92831 / T 657-278-3311 / F 657-278-3314

Date: September 30, 2016

TO: Anil Puri
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Su Swarat
Director, Office of Assessment and Educational Effectiveness

FROM: Laurie Rodes *L. Rodes*
Dean, College of Health and Human Development

Subject: Program Performance Review, Department of Social Work

The Master of Social Work Program at California State University, Fullerton is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education Commission on Accreditation (COA). The Department of Social Work completed a Reaffirmation Self-Study in April 2014 that was reviewed by the COA at its June 2014 meeting, with a Letter of Instruction issued to Dr. Kevin Marett, the site visitor, for follow-up during his September 2014 visit to the program.

The Department of Social Work has submitted its accreditation self-study and COA reports to meet the CSUF Program Performance Review requirements. The report below is in response to the Department of Social work self-study, as well as the reports and letters issued by Dr. Marett, the COA, and the responses by the Department.

I want to note at the outset that on March 9, 2015, the Council on Social Work Education COA issued a letter to CSUF President Garcia noting that the COA had "voted to reaffirm the program's accreditation for eight years, ending in February 2023 with a Progress Report to be reviewed by the COA." Congratulations are due the department faculty, staff, and students, and especially the department chair, Dr. David Chenot, for the success of the program and for their efforts in preparing the self-study and in responding to requests for clarification by the COA.

The self-study and follow-up responses provide a wealth of information about the program, as well as how it addresses the extensive components of the accreditation standards. The mission and goals of the program are consistent not only with those within the field of Social Work, but also with those of the College of Health and Human Development and of CSUF as a campus. The

THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Bakersfield / Channel Islands / Chico / Dominguez Hills / East Bay / Fresno / Fullerton / Humboldt / Long Beach / Los Angeles / Maritime Academy
Monterey Bay / Northridge / Pomona / Sacramento / San Bernardino / San Diego / San Francisco / San Jose / San Luis Obispo / San Marcos / Sonoma / Stanislaus

program provides an outstanding curriculum and excellent educational experience for students, preparing them to work professionally as practitioners and as leaders in the community.

A notable strength of the Department is its serious commitment to prepare professionals able to work effectively with a wide range of diverse populations, especially in Orange County and Southern California. The student body is very diverse, and faculty ensure that students gain both an academic foundation and practicum experience across a broad range of demographics. Another strength of the program is the focus on the integrative curriculum model. Faculty ensure that students understand how what they learn in individual courses relates to other courses, as well as to their work in the community, helping them to advance as professional social workers.

The areas of concern identified in the COA Letter of Instruction for the site visit focused primarily on asking for clarification of items addressed in the self-study (e.g., operational definitions; assessment details). The report by the site visitor noted that most areas of concern were addressed to his satisfaction during his meeting with faculty, students, and the department chair, and the department has subsequently worked to address any remaining questions. I am confident that these issues will be fully clarified and will no longer elicit questions in subsequent reviews. The requested progress report was completed by the department chair, Dr. Chenot, and sent to the COA for review.

Two areas that will require ongoing collaboration between the university, college, and department include ensuring that the number of full-time faculty is consistently sufficient for the student enrollment in the program and that the department has adequate space to meet its needs. The dean's office is well aware of these issues and will continue working with the department to address them.

In conclusion, the Department of Social Work is to be commended for the reaffirmation of its accreditation for eight years.