

# ASACR 4

Office of the President  
December 10, 2019

Members, Board of Trustees:

ACADEMIC DEGREE RECOMMENDATION:  
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Doctor of Social Work degree, within the College of Social Work, beginning in the Fall 2020 Semester.

Background: The proposed program meets a unique academic market need as it is designed to move social workers from the broader foundation of generalist social work practice to an advanced level of theory application, knowledge, and skills in a variety of practice settings.

The degree program will be offered in an online format with required week-long summer residencies, offered in-person or via synchronous online software. The curriculum will consist of 42 hours, 33 of which are core and nine of which are to be taken in one of three identified concentrations: Administrative Leadership, Clinical Social Work, or Military Behavioral Health.

Doctorate of Social Work (DSW) programs have gained traction nationally with social workers seeking advanced degrees to support professional practice, but who are not interested in the research components of a PhD. Similarly, in the College of Social Work, the DSW differs from the existing PhD program in that the purpose of the DSW is preparation for advanced professional practice rather than the research focus of the PhD. Obtaining a DSW degree has been shown to increase economic opportunities and job readiness for social workers.

The program has the approval of the appropriate councils and the University Senate, and has completed the 30 day review process of the Council on Postsecondary Education. The Provost of the University supports this recommendation.

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Action taken:  Approved     Disapproved     Other \_\_\_\_\_