

May 4, 2017

Chancellor C. Ray Hayes
The University of Alabama System
500 University Boulevard East
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Dear Chancellor Hayes:

I am pleased to endorse the recommendation from Provost Kevin Whitaker and Deans Susan Carvalho of the Graduate School and Vikki Vandiver of the School of Social Work for approval of the attached NISP for a proposed Doctor of Social Work (DSW) degree (CIP Code 44.0701). This degree will allow the School of Social Work to meet a growing demand for clinical practitioners in the field of social work. The DSW will prepare professional social workers to more adequately fill leadership roles in clinical, policy, research, advocacy, and educational settings and to address growing needs in critical areas such as mental health, behavioral health, and substance abuse.

If you approve of this NISP, I would appreciate you forwarding this request to the Board of Trustees for their approval.

Sincerely,



Stuart R. Bell
President

Enclosures

c: Executive Vice President and Provost Kevin Whitaker
Dean Vikki Vandiver
Dean Susan Carvalho



May 4, 2017

President Stuart R. Bell
The University of Alabama
203 Rose Administration Building
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

Dear President Bell:

I join Dean Vikki Vandiver, School of Social Work, and Dean Susan Carvalho, Graduate School, in recommending for your approval the attached Notification of Intent to Submit a Proposal (NISP) for a proposed Doctor of Social Work (DSW) degree (CIP Code 44.0701). This degree will allow the School of Social Work to meet a growing demand for clinical practitioners in the field of social work. The DSW will prepare professional social workers to more adequately fill leadership roles in clinical, policy, research, advocacy, and educational settings and to address growing needs in critical areas such as mental health, behavioral health, and substance abuse.

If you approve of this NISP, please forward this request to the Chancellor at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kevin Whitaker
Executive Vice President and Provost

Enclosures

c: Dean Vikki Vandiver
Dean Susan Carvalho

March 31, 2017

Dear Provost Whitaker,

On behalf of the faculty of the School of Social Work, I am pleased to submit the attached Notification of Intent to Submit a Proposal (NISP) for a proposed Doctor of Social Work degree (CIP Code: 44.0701). This proposed program will meet the growing demands in the field of social work including the need for advanced clinical practitioners in the area of mental and behavioral health and substance abuse. Additionally, this program will align with the University's goals to increase graduate enrollment.

We are looking forward to continuing this process to develop this valuable degree option for the social workers in our state and in the surrounding regions. We appreciate your support in this process.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, or if I can be of service.

Most sincerely,



Vikki L. Vandiver
Dean and Professor

April 26, 2017

Provost Kevin Whitaker
The University of Alabama
Office for Academic Affairs
254 Rose Administration Building
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

Dear Provost Whitaker:

I join Dean Vikki Vandiver in recommending for your approval the attached Notification of Intent to Submit a Proposal (NISP) for a proposed Doctoral of Social Work (DSW) degree (CIP 44.0701). The Graduate Council unanimously approved of this NISP at its meeting on April 25, 2017. This proposed graduate degree program meets specific needs and will attract new graduate enrollments.

If you approve of this NISP, please forward this request to President Bell at your earliest convenience so that it may be considered at the next meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Sincerely,



Dr. Susan Carvalho
Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School

Enclosures

c.: Dr. Catherine Pagani

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Resolution

Granting Approval of and Permission to Submit to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) a Notification of Intent to Submit a Proposal (NISP) for a Doctor of Social Work (D.S.W.) degree in Social Work (CIP Code 44.0701) in the School of Social Work

WHEREAS, the School of Social Work at The University of Alabama currently offers Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Social Work; and

WHEREAS, The School of Social Work prepares scholar-practitioners and researchers committed to ending adverse social conditions and promoting societal well-being through teaching, research, and service; and

WHEREAS, the School of Social Work seeks to support the professional development of highly skilled social workers to meet the need for professional social workers in leadership roles in clinical, policy, research, advocacy, and educational settings by offering comprehensive social work degree options; and

WHEREAS the need for advanced clinical social work practitioners is growing in many critical areas including mental health, behavioral health, and substance abuse; and

WHEREAS the Social Work (D.S.W.) Program will be supported by the expertise of the faculty in the areas of clinical social work, advanced policy practice, community engaged scholarship and program administration. Additionally, the D.S.W. Program will contribute to the University's mission to advance the intellectual and social condition of the people of the state, the nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, the Doctor of Social Work degree is not currently available in the state;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees at the University of Alabama that it grants approval of and permission to submit to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) a Notification of Intent to Submit a Proposal (NISP) for a Doctor of Social Work (D.S.W.) degree in Social Work (CIP Code 44.0701) in the School of Social Work at The University of Alabama.

Alabama Commission on Higher Education

**NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL (NISP)
FOR A NEW PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION**

1. Institution: The University of Alabama
2. Date of NISP Submission: June 16, 2017
3. Institutional Contact Person: Cathy Pagani or Ginger Bishop

Telephone: 205-348-8284 (Pagani) or 205-348-7125 (Bishop)
E-mail: cathy@ua.edu or vabishop@ua.edu

4. Program Identification:

Title: Social Work
Award: Doctorate of Social Work (DSW)
CIP Code: 44.0701

5. Proposed Program Implementation Date: Fall 2019
6. Statement of Program Objectives (Objectives should be precise and stated in such a way that later evaluation/assessment of program outcomes is facilitated):

The Doctorate of Social Work (DSW) degree is an advanced clinical practice degree. Currently, there is a need for social workers with advanced clinical knowledge beyond that of a MSW (Master of Social Work) degree. Edward, Rittner and Holmes (2011) stated that "The advanced practice doctorate is an important recent development in community-based professional social work practice and this degree is expected to fill any number of growing needs in social service agencies, health and mental health care institutions, and community organizations". In Alabama, social workers interested in filling these needs must leave the state to obtain a DSW degree, or they are forced to use sporadic continuing education trainings to develop these skills. The DSW Degree Program at The University of Alabama will be designed to address these needs. The stated program objectives are as follows:

The University of Alabama Doctorate of Social Work (DSW) program prepares students for excellence in advanced clinical social work practice, community-engaged scholarship and social work education and leadership. Graduates of this program will:

- A. Demonstrate advanced clinical social work practice skills including specialized clinical assessments, psychosocial interventions and clinical supervision.
- B. Develop systematic analyses and collective action plans to address critical issues faced by vulnerable and underserved communities.
- C. Apply principles of social work organizational leadership, management and supervision.
- D. Develop and implement best practices in social work education and program administration.

7. Relationship of program to other programs within the institution.

- a. How will the program support or be supported by other programs within the institution?

This program will be supported by The University of Alabama's School of Social Work. The School of Social Work currently offers Bachelor's, Master's and PhD degrees in Social Work. The School of Social Work faculty members have research and practice expertise that will support a DSW Program. Additionally, the School of Social Work has dedicated advisors and career services specialists who will support the students enrolled in the DSW Program. The School of Social work also has recruitment specialists who will be available to support prospective students considering enrollment in the DSW Program.

The DSW degree is not duplicative or competitive with the PhD in Social Work degree that is currently offered in the School of Social Work. The notable difference is that the PhD is "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" (Carter & Hawkins, 2014). Given the vast differences in these degree programs, the prospective student profiles would also be very different and therefore the programs would not compete for students. The DSW would be a more viable option for experienced, licensed social workers who want additional expertise in clinical practice and community and agency-based research (Thyer, 2015).

- b. Will this program replace any existing program(s) or specialization(s), options or concentrations within existing programs? Yes: _____ No: X

If yes, please explain. **Not Applicable**

8. If this program is duplicative of any other programs in the state, please give your rationale for program duplication.

There are no other DSW (Doctorate of Social Work) Programs in the State of Alabama.

9. Do you plan to explore possible program collaboration with other institutions? Please explain.

At this time, there is not a plan to collaborate with other institutions in the state since there are no other DSW programs. However, collaboration with other programs and institutions will be explored in the future in terms of recruitment efforts of graduates of the other MSW programs in the state.

10. Do you anticipate the use of distance education technology in the delivery of the program? Please explain.

Yes, this program will be designed as a distance education program. The format will use a hybrid model including on-line courses and face-to-face learning opportunities.

11. What methodology will you use to determine the level of student demand for this program?

We will examine the enrollment and graduation trends of MSW Programs in the southeast. We will also survey our MSW Program alumni and the membership of local, state and national professional social work organizations.

12. What methodology will you use to determine need for this program?


The need for social workers with advanced practice degrees will be ascertained by examining labor and employment trends in the areas that employ social work practitioners including but not limited to: mental health, behavioral health, and substance abuse agencies.

Additionally, we will examine the need for DSW graduates as potential faculty members. A recent study found that the majority of the social work education administrators that participated in the study would consider hiring a graduate of a DSW Program in a faculty position (Barsky, Green, Ayayo, 2014).

Certification



Chief Academic Officer



Graduate Dean (if this is a graduate program)

5-1-17

Date