

**UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY COLLEGE OF SOCIALWORK
SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK
GRADUATE CERTIFICATE RENEWAL
October 22, 2012**

Responses to questions for renewal:

- Have the objectives of the graduate certificate been met over the last five years?

The primary objective for creating a school social work graduate certificate was to prepare students for the specific challenges of providing services in elementary and secondary school settings. A secondary objective was to offer a specialty area that students would find appealing. Offering the graduate certificate provided a marketing tool to capture students with an interest in schools as well as those with an interest in working primarily with children. Feedback from local school districts indicates that students are entering school social work positions prepared to meet the challenges. We feel confident that the objectives are being met.

- Have the needs (environmental, social, business educational) which triggered the development of the graduate certificate been satisfied?

The curriculum continues to meet the social, emotional and educational needs of the school community. In addition our preparation program is in line with the requirements of the Education Professional Standards Board which issues the actual School Social Work Certificate needed to practice school social work in public schools. Also, our program addresses the NASW Standards for School Social Work Practice. Our school social work committee has considered adding and/or replacing courses but has not, primarily due to the fact that instructors and students believe the curriculum meets the needs.

- How many students have been admitted to the School Social Work Graduate Certificate Program over the last 5 years?

Fifty-nine students have been admitted to the SSW Graduate Certificate Program during the past five years.

- What is the average amount of time that these students have taken to complete the program?

The average amount of time students take to complete the program is three or four semesters. The students in the advanced standing program complete it in three semesters and those in the 60 hour program usually take four or five.

- How many students have graduated from the program over the last five years?

Forty-nine students have completed the School Social Work Graduate Certificate requirements and graduated with the MSW.

- What value have the students derived from receiving the graduate certificate?

Over the past five years eighteen of the forty-nine students have gained employment as school social workers. Others continue to seek positions which have been limited due to the economy and cuts. Other benefits include: education and personal enrichment, experience in working with children during their two practicum's and networking opportunities.

- What is your assessment of the need for this graduate certificate over the next five years?

I believe we need to continue to offer students the opportunity to have specialized training for working with children and adolescents in the school setting.

Submitted by Florence M. Lankster
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