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November 21, 2016

Dr. David L. Eisler
President
Ferris State University
Office of the President
1201 South State Street, CSS 301
Big Rapids, MI 49307

Dear President Eisler:

At its October 2016 meeting, the Commission on Accreditation (COA) reviewed the *Reaffirmation* materials for the master's social work program. The COA voted to grant initial accreditation for 4 years, ending in October 2020, with a *Progress Report* to be reviewed by the Commission on Accreditation.

In taking this action, the Commission identified the following areas of concern:

Accreditation Standard 2.1.5: *The program discusses how its field education program specifies policies, criteria, and procedures for selecting field settings; placing and monitoring students; maintaining field liaison contacts with field education settings; and evaluating student learning and field setting effectiveness congruent with the program's competencies.*

The program discusses how its field education program specifies policies, criteria, and procedures for selecting field settings; placing and monitoring students; maintaining field liaison contacts with field education settings; and evaluating student learning congruent with the program's competencies. However, the program did not discuss how its field education program specifies policies, criteria, and procedures for evaluating field setting effectiveness congruent with the program's competencies.

The program is asked to discuss how its field education program specifies policies, criteria, and procedures for evaluating field setting effectiveness congruent with the program's competencies.

Accreditation Standard M3.3.3: *The master's social work program identifies no fewer than six full-time faculty with master's degrees in social work from a CSWE-accredited program and whose principal assignment is to the master's program. The majority of the full-time master's social work program faculty has a master's degree in social work and a doctoral degree preferably in social work.*

The program identified six faculty members with master's degrees in social work from a CSWE-accredited program and whose principal assignment is to the master's program. However, the program indicated that the majority of the full-time master's social work program faculty do not currently possess a doctoral degree.

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The program is asked to verify that the majority of the full-time master's social work program faculty possesses a doctoral degree.

Accreditation Standard 4.0.1: *The program presents its plan to assess the attainment of each of its competencies. The plan specifies procedures, multiple measures of each practice behavior, and benchmarks employed to assess the attainment of each of the program's competencies (AS B2.0.3; AS M2.0.4).*

The program presented its plan to assess the attainment of each of its competencies, which included procedures, multiple measures of each practice behavior, and benchmarks employed to assess the attainment of each of the program's competencies. However, it was unclear from the plan how the measures identified are used to measure each individual practice behavior.

The program is asked to describe specifically how each individual practice behavior is assessed using the identified outcome measures.

Accreditation Standard 4.0.2: *The program provides summary data and outcomes for the assessment of each of its competencies, identifying the percentage of students achieving each benchmark.*

The program provided summary data. However, because the program appeared to use overall assignment scores, rather than scores for each individual practice behavior in its assessment plan, it was unclear how competency attainment was determined.

The program is asked to provide clear summary data and outcomes for the assessment of each of its competencies, identifying the percentage of students achieving each benchmark.

Accreditation Standard 4.0.3: *The program describes the procedures it employs to evaluate the outcomes and their implications for program renewal. It discusses specific changes it has made in the program based on specific assessment outcomes.*

The program describes the procedures it employs to evaluate the outcomes and their implications for program renewal. However, because it was unclear from the assessment plan how competency attainment was determined, it was unclear how changes made to the program were linked to specific competency attainment.

Once the assessment plan has been clarified, the program is asked to identify specific changes it has made to the program based on specific assessment outcomes.

Accreditation Standard 4.0.4: *The program uses Form AS 4(B) and/or Form AS 4(M) to report its most recent assessment outcomes to constituents and the public on its website and routinely up-dates (minimally every 2 years) these postings.*

The program provided *Form AS 4(B)* and verified that it is updated routinely. However, because the program did not clearly specify how the outcome measures identified are used to determine competency attainment, it was unclear how accurate the form provided was.

The program is asked to provide a revised *Form AS 4(B)* once it has clarified its assessment plan.

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Accreditation Standard 4.0.5: *The program appends copies of all assessment instruments used to assess the program competencies.*

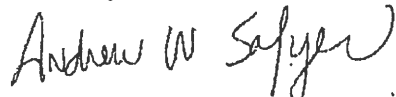
The program provided copies of its field evaluation instrument and descriptions of course assignments. However, the program did not provide rubrics for the course assignments and it was unclear from the course descriptions specifically how the course assignments are used to individually assess each practice behavior.

The program is asked to provide copies of all assessment instruments for course assignments that clearly specify how each practice behavior is individually assessed.

Submit three (3) hard copies and one (1) electronic copy of the *Progress Report* no later than August 1, 2017, for review during the October 2017 Commission on Accreditation meeting.

Please be in touch with Anna R. Holster, Accreditation Specialist in the Department of Social Work Accreditation, if there are any questions about this letter or the procedures and actions of the Commission on Accreditation.

Sincerely,



Andrew W. Safyer, PhD, MSW
Chair, Commission on Accreditation

AWS/ARH

Cc: Wendy Samuels, MSW, PhD
Chair & Program Director,
Social Work Program