

**New Program Proposal
Bachelor of Social Work (BSW)
USC-Columbia**

Summary

USC-Columbia requests approval to offer a program leading to the Bachelor of Social Work to be implemented in Fall 2009 on the Columbia campus.

The program planning summary was submitted to the Commission on Higher Education on May 1, 2007. The program planning summary was reviewed without substantive comment by the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs on July 25, 2007, and was approved unanimously. The full proposal was approved by the USC Board of Trustees on December 15, 2008, and submitted to the Commission on Higher Education for review on February 6, 2009.

The purpose of this program is to prepare students for ethical, competent, and culturally relevant social work generalist practice and to equip the students with the skills they need for life-long learning and professional development. The proposal states that the need for this program is evidenced by the fact that South Carolina is ranked 35th among the states in the number of social workers per capita. In addition, the proposal states that the need for social workers is expected to grow 22% faster than the average for other occupations through 2016. The proposal provides examples of areas in which the need for social workers is expected to increase. For example, there will be an increased need for social workers to provide quality services to the elderly in South Carolina, a population that is expected to grow 69% by 2020. Similarly, social workers will be needed to provide services to and act as an advocate for children, families, and veterans. The proposal also notes that there is a demand for this program in that approximately 20 students have inquired about the possible major in the past three months.

The proposal notes that South Carolina has the fewest Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accredited baccalaureate programs of any state in the region. North Carolina has 21 baccalaureate programs, Alabama and Tennessee have 14, Florida has 12, Virginia has 11, Mississippi has nine, Georgia has eight, and Louisiana and West Virginia have seven programs. However, only six colleges and universities (South Carolina State University, Winthrop University, Benedict College, Coker College, Columbia College, and Limestone College) offer a baccalaureate degree program in social work in South Carolina. Regarding the two public institutions, South Carolina State University's program enrolled

135 students in Fall 2008 and awarded 35 baccalaureate degrees in the 2007-2008 academic year. Winthrop University's program enrolled 173 students in Fall 2008 and awarded 17 baccalaureate degrees in the 2007-2008 academic year. Because of accreditation requirements, each BSW program has limitations in the number of students accepted into the program based on available financial, program, and faculty resources. Therefore, neither South Carolina State University nor Winthrop University can increase the number of students accepted for generalist social work without expanding their faculty and program resources beyond current capacity.

Projected new enrollment for the proposed program is 40 (45.1 FTE) students in the first year, increasing to 80 (85.4 FTE) in the second, 120 (128.4 FTE) in the third, and 160 (171.4 FTE) in the fourth and fifth years. Additional students are expected to transfer into the proposed program from other programs (the number of students expected to transfer into the program is ten the first year, 20 the second year, 30 the third year, and 40 the fourth and fifth years). According to an institutional representative, the university expects to produce 50 graduates in the program's fourth year. If estimated enrollments and completions are achieved as projected, the program will meet the Commission on Higher Education's program productivity requirements.

According to the proposal, the curriculum for the proposed program will consist of a minimum of 121 credit hours. This curriculum includes 62 credit hours in general education/liberal arts requirements, including six credit hours in English courses, six credit hours in numerical and analytical reasoning courses, nine credit hours of history, eight credit hours of laboratory sciences, three credit hours of philosophical reasoning, six credit hours of humanities, 15 credit hours in social sciences from selected fields, and 59 credit hours in major core courses. In addition, students must demonstrate proficiency or take nine credit hours in a foreign language. If students demonstrate proficiency, they can take nine credit hours of electives in place of the language credit hours. A total of 15 new courses will be added to USC's catalogue during the program's first five years. These new offerings include courses in social policy analysis, generalist practice, human behavior and social environment, and advocacy for social and economic justice.

USC currently offers a program leading to the Master's degree in social work that is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. The University will pursue accreditation for this proposed baccalaureate program within the next four years.

USC-Columbia has bridge programs with several technical colleges that allow students to transfer seamlessly into the university. According to the proposal, USC is collaborating fully with other institutions to develop this

program. For example, it is working with Midlands Technical College to allow students to transfer easily into the proposed BSW program. The resulting model will be replicated with other technical colleges.

Faculty for the proposed program will be drawn from existing faculty currently teaching in the graduate or the undergraduate minor program of study in social work. The university recently hired a Program Director and the Field Education Coordinator. Currently, seven faculty members (2.62 FTE) are on staff, including the two recent hires. One new full-time faculty member will be recruited in each of the first and second years of the program's operation, such that in the first year, there will be eight faculty members (3.61 FTE) and in the second year, there will be nine faculty members (4.61 FTE) for the program.

No new space or facilities are needed for this proposed program. The proposal states that the College of Social Work already has designated classrooms within the University and that offices needed for staff have already been identified in the Thornwell Annex. The proposal also notes that existing instructional equipment will be sufficient for the proposed program, but that office equipment will be needed for the three positions (two faculty and one staff) filled after the first year of the program. A SMARTClassroom will also be needed and will be equipped with the latest technology. According to the proposal, the cost of the SMARTClassroom is estimated to be \$25,000 for the first year and \$10,000 for each subsequent year.

According to the proposal, the program will not require additional library resources. The proposal states that the strength of the USC Library System is that it supports teaching and research in all required subject areas and that the current library collection strongly supports the area of social work. For example, in 2006, the library subscribed to 55 journal titles in the area of social work and had access to 20 titles in electronic format relating to social work. Students will also have access to additional library sources through the Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries (PASCAL).

New costs for the program include \$243,600 for start-up costs in 2008-2009. These start-up costs include personnel, technology equipment, recruitment, office set-up, accreditation, travel, and miscellaneous costs. New costs estimated for the first year are \$497,520 and include personnel costs (\$427,520), technology equipment (\$7,500), maintenance and SMARTClassrooms (\$25,000), recruitment (\$7,500), faculty travel (\$5,000), accreditation costs (\$20,000), and miscellaneous costs (\$5,000). Estimated new costs increase to \$582,900 during the second year, increase further to \$586,900 in the third year, and then remain at \$586,900 in the fourth and fifth years. The total estimated new cost for the program for its first five years, including start-up costs incurred in 2008-2009, is \$3,084,720. This

total includes costs for personnel (\$2,846,720), technology equipment (\$38,000), the SMARTClassrooms (\$65,000), recruitment (\$42,500), office set-up (\$6,500), accreditation (\$30,000), faculty travel (\$28,000), and miscellaneous costs (\$28,000).

The following table shows the estimated Mission Resource Requirement (MRR) costs to the state and new costs not funded by the MRR associated with implementation of the proposed program for its first five years. Also shown are the estimated revenues projected under the MRR and Resource Allocation Plan as well as student tuition.

Estimated Program Costs and Revenue

	Estimated Program Costs		Estimated Program Revenue				(G) Total Revenue - Total Costs (F-(A+B))
	(A) MRR Cost	(B) Other Costs*	(C) Actual State Funding	(D) Tuition	(E) Additional Revenue	(F) Total Revenue (C+D+E)	
Year 1	\$249,512	\$243,600	N/A	\$471,758	\$0	\$471,758	-\$21,354
Year 2	\$472,817	\$0	\$144,031	\$894,058	\$0	\$1,038,089	\$565,272
Year 3	\$710,887	\$0	\$272,540	\$1,343,035	\$0	\$1,615,575	\$904,688
Year 4	\$948,956	\$0	\$410,073	\$1,793,419	\$0	\$2,203,492	\$1,254,536
Year 5	\$948,956	\$0	\$547,245	\$1,793,419	\$0	\$2,340,665	\$1,391,708

*Includes costs of an extraordinary nature not otherwise included in the MRR cost calculation (e.g., costs for a new building required to support a program).

In the MRR table shown above, “other costs” represent the start-up costs identified in the proposal. The data shown in the MRR table demonstrate that if the institution meets the projected student enrollments and contains costs as they are shown in the proposal, the program will be able to cover costs of the program beginning in the second year and continuing thereafter.

In summary, the University’s proposed program leading to the Bachelor of Social Work degree will provide a generalist education so that students are prepared for diverse employment opportunities in the growing field of social work. The program is designed to prepare students for careers as social workers dealing with children, families, the elderly, and veterans, and as advocates for individuals,

families, and children of low socioeconomic status. This program is especially needed given the growth that is expected in the field in the next ten years. The need for the program was also demonstrated by state agencies' demand for more Social Work graduates as discussed during the July 25, 2007, meeting of the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs.

Recommendation

The staff recommends that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing commend favorably to the Commission the program leading to the Bachelor of Social Work degree at USC-Columbia, to be implemented in Fall 2009, provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested.