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November 9, 2020

Rita Hartung Cheng, PhD
President
Northern Arizona University - Flagstaff
Office of the President
president@nau.edu

**RE: Grant Initial Accreditation with a Progress Report
Northern Arizona University – Flagstaff (AZ)
Master of Social Work Program (MSW)
2015 Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS)**

Dear President Cheng:

At its October 2020 meeting, the Commission on Accreditation (COA) reviewed the social work program’s application for Initial Accreditation. The COA decided to grant Initial Accreditation to the Master of Social Work program through October 2024 with a Progress Report to be reviewed by the COA.

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

Accreditation Standard 2.2.7: *The program describes how its field education program specifies policies, criteria, and procedures for selecting field settings; placing and monitoring students; supporting student safety; and evaluating student learning and field setting effectiveness congruent with the social work competencies.*

The program described how its field education program specifies policies, criteria, and procedures for placing and monitoring students; supporting student safety; and evaluating student learning and field setting effectiveness congruent with the social work competencies. The program also described how its field education program specifies criteria and procedures for selecting field settings. However, the program did not describe how its field education program specifies policies for selecting field settings.

The program is asked to describe how its field education program specifies policies for selecting field settings.

Accreditation Standard 3.1.2: *The program describes the policies and procedures for evaluating applications and notifying applicants of the decision and any contingent conditions associated with admission.*

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The program described its procedures for evaluating applications and notifying applicants of the decision and any contingent conditions associated with admission. However, the program did not describe its policies for evaluating applications and notifying applicants of the decision and any contingent conditions associated with admission.

The program is asked to describe its policies for evaluating applications and notifying applicants of the decision and any contingent conditions associated with admission.

Accreditation Standard 4.0.2: *The program provides its most recent year of summary data and outcomes for the assessment of each of the identified competencies, specifying the percentage of students achieving program benchmarks for each program option.*

The program provided a table of summary data. However, it was unclear how the program differentiated between generalist practice outcomes and specialized practice outcomes.

The program is asked to provide its most recent year of summary data and outcomes for the assessment of each of the identified competencies, for both generalist practice and specialized practice, specifying the percentage of students achieving program benchmarks for each program option.

COA Initial Accreditation decision types are described in [policy 4.6.1 in the EPAS Handbook](#).

The program is asked to submit one (1) electronic copy of the report, no later than August 1, 2021 for review during its October 2021 meeting. Please be in touch with Karen Chapman, 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,



Deana F. Morrow, PhD, LICSW, ACSW
Chair, Commission on Accreditation

DFM/ARH/KYC

Cc: Natalie Cawood, PhD, MSW
Chair, Department of Social Work
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