PROPOSAL FOR GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK

INTRODUCTION

The Graduate Certificate in School Social Work is proposed in response to an identified need for social workers specifically trained to work in elementary and secondary school settings. In addition, it will meet the State of Kentucky mandated requirements for school social work certification. At its meeting on May 19, 2003, the state Professional Education Standards Board approved the proposed Graduate Certificate in School Social Work curriculum of the College of Social Work as appropriate educational preparation for school social work positions.*

As the call for school reform grows and efforts to close the achievement gap and "leave no child behind" intensify, it is clear that barriers to student achievement must be addressed. Social workers are trained to assess and provide intervention for the social, emotional, familial, cultural and cognitive barriers to achievement and adjustment. However, to meet the specific challenges of providing services in the elementary and secondary school settings, knowledge of the practice and policy issues of public education and the inter-relational issues among schools, families and the community is imperative. The certificate in school social work curriculum will provide course work and experiential learning opportunities, which will enable graduates to meet these challenges. In addition, the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) strongly supports certification programs that surpass or are embedded in Master of Social Work programs. The National Association of Social Workers provides Standards of Practice for Social Work in Schools. It recognizes that many states and school districts already adhere to these standards and encourages the development of school social work as a specialty practice area.

CERTIFICATE CURRICULUM

The minimum number of credits required for the Graduate Certificate in School Social Work will be either 17 or 9 credits, depending on whether the applicant is a (a) UK degree-seeking MSW student or (b) one who already holds an MSW degree from an accredited social work program. For applicants with an MSW

* Enclosed herewith are letters from (1) Director, Division of Educator Preparation, Education Professional Standards Board, State of Kentucky, and (2) Director, Division of Student, family & Community Support Services, Kentucky Department of Education.
degree. Approved work experience with school-aged children will substitute for
school-based field education practicum. Although 17 credits is slightly above the
nominal Graduate School maximum of 15 credits, we feel this is warranted
because this reflects the mandated Practicum requirements for certification, and
is in accord with the agreement reached with the State. Seventeen credits is still
within the upper limit specified by the University Senate that "should" be
enforced.

The Certificate will be embedded in the College of Social Work Master's
curriculum in the Advanced Standing and regular (60-hour) programs for either
the Family/Community or Mental Health concentration. All MSW students
enroll in courses in human behavior, social work practice, social policy, research,
assessment and intervention, psychopathology, ethics, administration and
supervision, and field practicum. In addition, students working toward the
Graduate Certificate in School Social Work will take the following required
courses.

**Required Courses** for Graduate Certificate in School Social Work (9 hours)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SW 616 Social Work Practice in a School Setting</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW 704 Child and Adolescent Assessment and Treatment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDS 516 Principles of Behavior Management and Instruction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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In addition, degree-seeking students will be required to do their field
practicum in a school setting. (Field Practicum is a part of the MSW course
requirements.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>SW 740 or SW 741 Field Education Practicum</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE ASSOCIATES AND DIRECTOR**

The following graduate faculty members are the primary designated associates for
the certificate: Dr. Richard Suphen and Dr. Sherry Fairchild of the College of
Social Work and Dr. John Schuster, Director of Graduate Studies in the
Department of Special Education of the College of Education. Mrs. Flo Lankster,
College of Social Work and Fayette County Public School System Liaison will
also be heavily involved. In addition, a number of graduate faculty from the
College of Social Work will participate in teaching the courses involved and

**A student must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 in the set of courses required for
completion of the graduate certificate in order to be awarded the certificate.**

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**Note:** The text contains several abbreviations and acronyms that are not clearly stated, which might affect the readability and understanding of the content.
serving on the Graduate Certificate in School Social Work Committee.***

The Dean of the Graduate School will appoint the Director. We recommend that Dr. Richard Sutphen be appointed the Director.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Two groups of students are eligible to apply for admission to the Graduate Certificate in School Social Work:

(a) Students who have been accepted for admission into the MSW degree program, and

(b) Students who hold the MSW degree from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education and apply for admission to the Graduate School Social Work Certificate Curriculum.

Students admitted to the MSW degree program must complete the application process prior to enrolling in the advanced year and be approved for admission by the Certificate Director.

Applicants currently holding an accredited MSW degree will be eligible to apply for admission in Post-baccalaureate status for purposes of pursuing the Certificate. Because this Certificate is aimed primarily at fulfilling state certification requirements for school social workers, this group will not be required to enroll in an additional field practicum.

Applicants to either the master's degree program in Social Work or to Post-baccalaureate status must meet the minimum admission requirements of the Graduate School for the status requested, as well as the program admission requirements for degree-seeking applicants. Admission and Certificate completion requirements will be made available in print and will be posted on a Certificate website. The Certificate Director will notify the Graduate School in writing of all admitted students.

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE DURATION

We request that the Certificate be initially approved for a 6-year period.

*** Two letters of support, one from Dr. John Schuster and the other from Dr. Kay Hoffman, Dean, College of Social Work are enclosed.
AWARD OF CERTIFICATE

Upon a student's completion of the required courses with a minimum graduate GPA of 3.00, the Certificate Director shall send a completed, signed Graduate Certificate Completion Form to the Dean of the Graduate School for verification and award of the certificate. On verification, the Graduate School shall officially notify the University Registrar of the award of the Certificate for posting to the student's permanent transcript.
June 25, 2003

Dr. Kay S. Hoffman, Dean
University of Kentucky College of Social Work
602 Patterson Office Tower Room 619
Lexington, KY 40506

Dear Dr. Hoffman:

There were significant changes made by the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) to regulations relevant to the school social worker certification in Kentucky. March 19, 2003, regulations 16 KAR 2:070 Social Workers’ Standard Certification and 16 KAR 2:080 Social Workers’ Provisional Certification became effective. The two regulations changed the method of certification for all school social workers who serve in the public schools.

January 1, 2004, all applicants for the provisional and professional certificate will be required to either be enrolled in or have completed an EPSB approved school social workers program. In the past, Social Work graduates could apply directly to the Division of Certification without any previous preparation from an EPSB approved program.

Currently there are two EPSB approved programs in Kentucky. They are:
- University of Kentucky’s College of Social Work
- University of Louisville’s Kent School of Social Work

This letter is for your information even though you may never have graduates who plan to work in the public school system. It is our responsibility to inform those colleges and universities that might be affected by this type of policy change. We also ask that you inform your graduates of the change in EPSB policy. The regulations are enclosed with this letter.

If you have additional questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Troupe, Director
Division of Educator Preparation

Enclosure

cc: Janet Banta
August 15, 2003

Dr. Surjit Dhopper  
College of Social Work  
University of Kentucky  
Patterson Office Tower, Room 649  
Lexington, KY 40506

Dear Dr. Dhopper:

Our division is the Department's liaison with school social workers, and we work regularly with both local district school social workers and their professional organization. This letter is written in support of the College of Social Work's intention to apply to the UK Graduate School for a Graduate Certificate Program in School Social Work.

If approved, this certificate program would provide specific course work and practicum experiences to better prepare school social workers in the work they do with students and families. Specifically, these educational preparatory experiences will enable school social workers to better meet the academic, social and emotional needs of the students with whom they work.

We sincerely urge you to support the proposal put forth by the UK College of Social Work. This new program will directly benefit the students of Kentucky, and provide stronger support services for Kentucky students and families.

Sincerely,

Dr. Angela Wilkins  
Director  
Division of Student, Family and Community Support Services

Nijel Clayton  
Consultant  
Division of Student, Family and Community Support Services
May 11, 2003

To: Florence Lankster  
   School Social Work Coordinator

From: John Schuster  
       Director of Graduate Studies

Re: Proposal for School Social Work Graduate Certificate

As a Professor and as the Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Special Education and Rehabilitation Counseling I wholeheartedly support the proposal for the School Social Work Graduate Certificate.

This program will meet the many needs of social worker practitioners in school settings. The more support that school personnel can deliver to students will help in “leaving no child behind”. Having social workers competent in the many issues involved in school settings will not only be helpful for the students they serve but for the coordination of services with their colleagues in those settings. I think an important and meaningful aspect of this proposal is that EDS 516 (i.e., Principles of Behavior Management and Instruction) is included as a required course. School personnel continually report challenges in the area of behavior management for children with and without disabilities. Having this as a requirement will bring more knowledgeable school personnel to face these challenges.

I support this proposal and highly recommend it be approved.
September 11, 2003

Dean Jeannine Blackwell
Graduate School
University of Kentucky
Campus 0027

Dear Dr. Blackwell:

I am writing to support the proposal to establish a graduate certificate in school social work. School social work is an identified need throughout Kentucky. Not only are there considerable vacancies in school social work positions, but the need for to offer a graduate certificate to persons who are already in school social work positions is sizeable.

During the past year, Mrs. Flo Lankster, interim field director in the College of Social Work, colleagues from the University of Louisville and Spalding University in Louisville and I worked directly with the KY Department of Education to change the regulations governing school social work in KY. Essentially, where there were no requirements beyond the Master of Social Work degree, there are now specific courses in social work and in special education required in order to obtain the school social work certification.

The proposed certificate in school social work follows the requirements now in place by the Department of Education. The University of Louisville is in the process of approving its graduate certificate in school social work. In order to stay competitive and to meet the needs of current students as well as graduates of the MSW program who are working in public education or who may wish to work in public education, the College must offer the graduate certificate.

Thank you for considering our proposal and please count this letter among those that support establishment of the certificate program.

Sincerely,

Kay Hoffman
Dean
Dr. Jeannine Blackwell  
Dean, Graduate School  
University of Kentucky  
Campus 0027

Dear Dr. Blackwell,

I am enclosing a proposal for the establishment of a Graduate Certificate in School Social Work along with four letters of support. There is a distinct need as well as high demand for such a graduate certificate and the Professional Education Standards Board of the State of Kentucky has approved the proposed Graduate Certificate in School Social Work curriculum as appropriate educational preparation for social work positions in elementary and secondary schools. Kindly take the necessary steps to have this proposal approved by the Graduate Council and the University Senate. I will be glad to provide further information about the proposal, if needed.

Thanking you,

Sincerely,

(Surjit Singh. Dhooper) Ph.D.  
Professor & Director of Graduate Studies

Enclosures: As above