

School of Social Work Faculty Credentialing Policy

The mission of the USF School of Social Work is to prepare graduates to achieve excellence as professionals and leaders in social work practice, research and education. We are committed to graduating students who reflect the School's commitment to promoting social and economic justice, and sustainable human and community well-being for all.

Appointment to the full-time faculty of the School of Social Work requires at a minimum, possession of a Master's degree in Social Work from a CSWE accredited graduate program or a DSW or PhD in Social Work. All faculty members eligible for appointment to a tenure earning or tenured line must possess a DSW or Ph.D. in Social Work/Social Welfare or a related field such as Psychology, Public Health, Anthropology, Gerontology, Education or Human Development.

In addition to the appointment standards described above, the School of Social Work also credentials faculty to teach courses if they have degrees in related fields such as Psychology, Public Health, Anthropology, Gerontology, Education or Human Development depending on the subject matter to be taught. Faculty without an MSW who hold a Ph.D. or equivalent in these disciplines may be credentialed to teach Social Work research, statistics, data management, and evaluation but may not be credentialed to teach other social work courses.

Appointment to the adjunct faculty of the School of Social Work requires at least a MSW degree in social work and two years practice experience. In some cases, adjunct faculty from fields outside of social work may present credentials based on professional licensure or certification, special skills, or other competencies consistent with the Council of Social Work Education's Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS); however, consistent with the School of Social Work governance document qualifications for Faculty, only adjunct faculty who possess an MSW will be eligible to teach social work practice courses. Objective standards for establishing the criteria are those set forth by the Council on Social Work Education: therefore, adjunct faculty must be able to teach the range of competencies pertaining to the various courses that are taught at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, as designated by the EPAS (2015). In addition, adjunct faculty must be familiar with and adhere to the core social work values as well as to University and School governance policies and standards. Finally adjunct faculty are appointed on a term-by-term basis as needed. Appointments are made by the Director following review and approval of credentials by the Faculty and in consultation with the Program Directors. It may be necessary for an appointment to be made without prior faculty approval. In such cases, the Director should consult with the Program Directors and available Faculty."

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