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5-6-2005

### AS Minutes 2005 05 06 Social Work

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**DEGREE COMPLETION PROGRAM  
BS IN SOCIAL WORK  
(for Paraprofessionals working in the Field and  
Adult Learners with at least 45 College Credits)**

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**BACKGROUND**

The Social Work Department faculty seek approval to offer the Bachelor of Science in Social Work to a broader community of adult learners via the Degree Completion Program. The planned curriculum mirrors that currently in place on campus, with courses being those currently offered on campus, but with content generally repackaged into 6 credit units to facilitate the needs of adult learners. Given the consistency of content between the on- and off-campus programs, the proposed Degree Completion Program in Social Work would thereby also meet the standards set forth by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) for baccalaureate degree education. CSWE is the accrediting body for the existing program on campus. In February 2004, in a decision that departed significantly from its recent history, the Accrediting Board of CSWE reaffirmed accreditation of the Social Work program at Salve Regina University for the full term of eight years, without directive to alter any aspect of its existing program. The current curriculum is therefore seen as a strong foundation on which to build.

**NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

A number of indicators point to the need for this program, including the following:

1. Over the past five years, approximately one-fourth of the applicants to the social work program have been older returning students who have an associate degree in human services and/or work experience in a human service agency. Therefore, we know that this is a program that is attractive to the adult population.
2. Five years ago, an articulation agreement was signed between CCRI and Salve Regina University, identifying specific courses acceptable for transfer from their associate degree program in Human Services toward a BS in Social Work.
3. A large number of graduates working in human service agencies have already received a certificate in human services (15-credits) as part of a 12-month program offering of the SRU Social Work department (Project EMPOWERS). Several of those graduates have expressed a desire to continue their education, but are not in a financial position due to family responsibilities to be a full-time student. Many are presently attending CCRI and could easily transition into this program.
4. CCRI will soon have a presence on the Island with the new campus in Newport scheduled for completion by September 2006, generating additional associate degree graduates who may want to continue their studies without having to travel to RIC or PC.

5. In a recent survey by MHRH (conducted by DATA of RI), it was found that over 600 people (approximately 15% of the workforce) in behavioral health care (including mental health and substance abuse programs licensed by the state of RI) have not completed a baccalaureate degree. Additionally, 200+ workers employed by the 8 Community Action Agencies across the state have no baccalaureate degrees and at least an equal number of employees at numerous multipurpose human service agencies across the State also have not completed their college degrees. In RI alone, it is estimated that at least 1,000 human service paraprofessionals are without baccalaureate degrees, in a field that has a high turnover rate among this population of workers.

## **CURRICULUM**

The Social Work Department designed the following degree completion program to meet the growing demand for more trained professional social workers and to meet the unique needs of the non-traditional age learner.

### **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS: (128 CREDIT TOTAL)**

1. **University core requirements:**

Those passed by the Faculty Assembly in March and currently awaiting administrative approval

2. **Requirements of the Major in Social Work:**

All reflect existing course content offered by the department:

Social Problems: Analysis by Race, Class & Gender	(4 cr)
Domestic and International Social Work Policy	(6 cr)
Human Behavior & Diversity	(6 cr)
Methods of Practice	(6 cr)
Internship I & Seminar	(6 cr)
Internship II & Seminar	(6 cr)
Internship III & Seminar	(6 cr)
Research Methods	(6 cr)
Social Work Electives (working with special populations)	(6 cr)
Integrative Seminar	<u>(4 cr)</u>

***Total Social Work credits: 56***

3. **Foundation Courses (minimum of one course in each of the following):**

Also applicable towards core curriculum requirements

Psychology  
Economics  
Human Biology  
Sociology  
Politics