Bachelor of Social Work program receives full accreditation

Virginia State University’s Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program has received full accreditation from the Council on Social Work Education’s (CSWE) Commission on Accreditation (COE).

CSWE is a national association of social work education programs that ensures and enhances the quality of social work education for a professional practice that promotes individual, family, and community well-being, and social and economic justice. The group is responsible for both formulating accreditation standards and policies, and determining the criteria and process for evaluating these standards. In addition, it is also responsible for developing accreditation standards that define competent preparation and ensuring that social work programs meet these standards.

To receive accreditation, VSU underwent a rigorous, four-year review process to ensure the program met CSWE standards designed by leading social work educators and practitioners to ensure that students are adequately prepared for professional practice. The process involved program self-studies, site visits and COA reviews.

Membership in the National Association of Social Workers and the social work licensing laws in most states require graduation from a CSWE-accredited program. The profession of social work in the United States looks to CSWE-accredited programs to produce individuals who have the knowledge and skills to be professional social workers. Graduates chances of being licensed or hired as a social worker are greatly enhanced by an accredited social work degree.

VSU Social Work Chair Dr. Gwendolyn Thornton said of the accreditation “We can proudly say that our VSU BSW graduates now join the ranks with students from more than 490 CSWE-accredited national and international BSW Social Work Programs. They are adequately prepared to compete for professional positions or admission into competitive graduate programs.”