

## **Gratia Christian College**

### **Qualification Recognition Review of Bachelor of Social Work (Honours)**

#### THE FINAL REPORT BY THE ASSESSMENT TEAM

##### Executive Summary

The Assessment Team appointed by the Social Workers Registration Board (the Board) reviewed documentation and conducted site visit to the Gratia Christian College on 25th – 26th November 2021 for qualification recognition review of the Bachelor of Social Work (Honours) (BSW) in full-time Year 1 Entry mode, full-time Year 3 Entry mode and part-time Conversion mode.

##### Assessment Team's Recommendations

1. Assessment Team is of the view that the BSW qualification has met the basic requirements laid down in the Principles, Criteria and Standards for Recognizing Qualifications in Social Work for Registration of Registered Social Workers (7th & 8th edition); and recommends that the Board continue to recognize BSW qualification awarded by Gratia Christian College, thereby qualifying its holders for registration as Registered Social Workers, for a period of four years from 2022/23 to 2025/26.
2. Approval is also recommended for (a) launching a new part-time Conversion mode with a reduced annual maximum intake at 45; (b) reducing full-time Year 1 Entry annual maximum intake from 40 to 30; and (c) increasing full-time Year 3 Entry annual maximum intake from 35 to 45.
3. Conditions
  - (a) To reduce the annual maximum intake of the part-time Conversion mode from 60 to 45 starting from admission year 2022/23.
  - (b) To require Year 3 Entry mode students to have achieved a certain minimum graduation GPA score (e.g. GPA 2.7) in their recognized social work diploma qualification starting from admission year 2022/23.

##### Summary of Commendations

1. The AT appreciated GCC's effort to respond to the conditions and recommendations proposed in the last qualification recognition review. Based on the documents submitted and information collected during on-campus visit, actions have been taken to fulfill the conditions and measures have been adopted in response to the recommendations. This has contributed to the continuous improvement of the BSW programme.
2. In response to the current and projected demand and supply for social work manpower in Hong Kong, GCC has proactively proposed readjustment of target intake of the BSW qualification in different operating modes, including decrease in

Year 1 Entry intake, increase in Year 3 Entry intake and also the proposed new Conversion mode for providing more opportunity for social workers holding diploma qualification to upgrade to degree level.

3. The School has gradually expanded the teaching staff team to support the increasing student enrolment in past years, particularly since the admission of Year 3 Entry in 2019/20. Full-time and part-time teaching staff and fieldwork supervisors are experienced in the field. They presented themselves during on-campus visit as committed and dedicated for the betterment of the programme and the benefit of students. Good intention is also observed in the projected teaching manpower recruitment plan to cope with the increasing student intake.

#### Summary of Suggestions

1. GCC is suggested to strengthen mental health content in the BSW curriculum (e.g., mental health as required course) so that students are equipped with more knowledge of mental health which may facilitate students' skill in future practice in both community mental health settings or services working with individuals and groups.
2. GCC is suggested to strengthen content in administration and management in the curriculum, including but not limited to, enrichment of the required course "Administration in Human Service Organisations" in terms of knowledge in management and also practical management and supervision skills.
3. GCC is suggested to strengthen the curriculum on the subject area related to the historical contexts and recent development of social welfare services in Hong Kong. This can provide students with a holistic view on the social welfare system in Hong Kong so that students can develop better insight into the future development of social work profession.
4. GCC is suggested to provide additional support to enhance students' language ability particularly English writing skills required for social workers at the supervisory grade, such as proposal and correspondence writing.
5. GCC is suggested to provide additional support to students in fieldwork including but not limited to arrangement of site visits, soliciting community resources of placement units, and offering flexibility in fieldwork mode for Year 3 Entry and also Conversion mode students.
6. GCC is suggested to actively explore ways of securing more campus space for supporting student activities and self-study so as to enrich student life.

#### THE FINAL DECISION OF THE BOARD

The Board has resolved to accept the recommendations of the Assessment Team to recognise the qualification for a period of four years from 2022/23 to 2025/26, with one additional condition as follows:

The College is required to submit Annual Progress Reports on the Bachelor of Social Work (Honours) for AY 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 to address the following two aspects:

- (1) the solution to address the insufficient campus space and facilities, including a specific improvement plan and a reasonable timetable; and
- (2) the fieldwork opportunities and arrangements.