

Gratia Christian College

Qualification Recognition Assessment on Higher Diploma in Social Work

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 assessment of the Higher Diploma in Social Work (HDSW) in full-time mode.

Assessment Team's Recommendation

Assessment Team is of the view that the HDSW 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 (8th edition); and recommends the Board to recognize HDSW qualification awarded by Gratia Christian College, thereby qualifying its holders for registration as Registered Social Workers, for a period of three years from 2022/23 to 2024/25.

Summary of Suggestions

1. GCC is suggested to strengthen mental health content in the HDSW 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 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.
3. GCC is suggested to review the assessment tasks and criteria in fieldwork placements in order to enhance the reliability of assessing students' placement performance.
4. 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 three years from 2022/23 to 2024/25, with one additional condition as follows:

The College is required to submit Annual Progress Reports on the Higher Diploma in Social Work for AY 2022/23 and 2023/24 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.