

Hong Kong Community College of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Qualification Recognition Review on Higher Diploma in Social Work

THE FINAL REPORT BY THE ASSESSMENT TEAM

Executive Summary

The Assessment Team (“AT”) appointed by the Social Workers Registration Board (“the Board”) reviewed documentation and conducted site visit to the Hong Kong Community College of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University on 19-20 January 2023 for qualification recognition review of the Higher Diploma in Social Work (“HDSW”). The 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 the Hong Kong Community College of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, thereby qualifying its holders for registration as Registered Social Workers, for a period of five years from 2023/24 to 2027/28.

Commendations

1. AT is impressed that the Hung Hom Bay Campus and the West Kowloon Campus have been equipped with state-of-the-art teaching facilities and equipment. Information and communication technology facilities are in place to support teaching including learning management system maintaining digital learning materials, and the comprehensive e-library databases accessible for HDSW students. There are also facilities for teachers to prepare online learning materials, and virtual reality equipment providing students with experiential learning about clients’ physical environment.
2. AT finds that the teaching staff of HDSW are passionate and committed in delivering teaching and offering administrative support to the best they can to make students’ learning fruitful. They are also supported by visionary and committed management staff and programme advisors. Their joint effort has made HDSW programme effective in achieving the goal of producing qualified social workers.
3. AT also finds constructive and close relationship between teachers and students. As reflected by students, graduates and representatives of placement agencies, HDSW programme staff provided extra support to students in times of pandemic and social movement. Placement agencies were given flexibility in coping with such changes during fieldwork.

Summary of Suggestions

1. To conduct a full curriculum review including but not limited to revisiting the programme intended learning outcomes, revising teaching content in response to recent development in the field, and updating reference materials of all the subjects, before the end of 2024/25, i.e. 31 August 2025.

2. To develop strategies of enhancing students' competence in work-related English writing to facilitate their future work of proposal writing; and consider to develop a mechanism to monitor students' progress on English learning.
3. To explore ways of releasing teaching staff workload for staff to engage in professional development activities to upgrade their knowledge and skills.
4. To set up a formal advisory committee by the end of 2023/24, i.e. August 2024.
5. To explore ways of enhancing the involvement of service users and carers in curriculum planning, programme delivery and review, e.g. to collect their opinions on the curriculum.
6. To explore ways of enhancing interaction between students of different years in the transition period of moving main teaching campus from Hung Hom Bay to West Kowloon campus.

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 five years from 2023/24 to 2027/28 with 3 commendations and 6 suggestions for enhancement.