



COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

## **2022 Educational Policies and Accreditation Standards Program Outcomes | AS 5.0.3**

Accreditation Standard (AS) 5.0.3 of the [2022 Educational Policies and Accreditation Standards \(EPAS\)](#) requires social work programs to monitor program outcomes and explain how data are used for continuous program improvement and decision making.

Per the [2022 EPAS Interpretation Guide glossary](#):

Program outcomes for CSWE-accredited programs include employment rates, graduation rates, higher education acceptance rates, and time to program completion. Programs are required to monitor graduation rates and at least one additional program outcome. Data are reported for each program option and in aggregate, including all program options.

The purpose of AS 5.0.3 is to explain the significance of program outcome data and how the program uses this data for continuous program improvement. The 2022 EPAS require programs to track graduation rates and at least one identified program outcome (i.e., employment rates, higher education acceptance rates, and time to program completion) that aligns with the specific context of the social work program. Programs then report their most recent 3-years of data within accreditation documents. An implementation timeline is included in the [2022 EPAS Interpretation Guide](#) for programs to phase in this new requirement.

CSWE and its Commission on Accreditation recognize that social work programs and institutions may encounter external pressure to report program outcomes reflecting data that exceeds benchmarks or consistently trend upward. In some cases, this may prove challenging when program faculty are also expected to monitor readiness of students to enter the profession and may counsel students out of the program if they are unable to meet professional or academic requirements. The EPAS support programs in selecting benchmarks and presenting data informed by program context. Therefore, the emphasis of AS 5.0.3 is on creating a culture of data-informed decision-making and program improvement throughout social work education.

CSWE-accredited social work programs requiring additional information about this standard may request a letter from CSWE's Department of Social Work Accreditation clarifying EPAS and accreditation requirements. Please review accreditation in the [EPAS Handbook](#) for more information. Programs may also visit the [2022 EPAS webpage](#) for additional information on compliance and tips for implementing all 2022 EPAS accreditation standards.