



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

PRAC Application

October 15, 2013

Greetings from the IU School of Social Work!

This letter of strong support is being written on behalf of our faculty application for the upcoming cycle of the PRAC Grants. These grants are important to our on-going assessment efforts.

Professor Barbosa, in collaboration with Dr. Gentle-Genitty, who has been engaging in many forms of assessment as a faculty and now as the Interim Director of the BSW program, have prepared an assessment proposal to guide and inform the future of our online efforts. The proposal is informed by our own anecdotal evidence of growth and markets for our students but it is hoped that the data from the project will give specific pathways for action.

With both their intimate involvement with our BSW students and the Program Curriculum they are both poised to conduct and effectively orchestrate assessment efforts. I am in full support of their efforts. The BSW Committee and the Faculty Senate are in anticipation of their findings.

The School of Social Work strives to bring change to the lives of all people and environments through our commitment to students. This is one factor in making that a reality.

I highly recommend their application for review and support.

Regards,

Cathy K. Pike, Ph.D., MSW
Associate Dean, Professor
School of Social Work

Assessing IU School of Social Work BSW Program's four year online course history, quality, student experiences, and student outcome impact to determine viability of a fully online BSW degree cohort

PRAC Grant Submission

Project Coordinators:

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Project Title: Assessing the IU School of Social Work BSW Program's four year online course history, quality, student experiences, and student outcome impact to determine viability of a fully online BSW degree cohort

Project Dates: November 15, 2013 through October 31, 2014

Project Checklist:

Statement of support from the department chair or school dean

Simple budget

N/A IRB

Abstract

The IU Online Initiative coupled with the number of millennial students at IUPUI demonstrates a demand for more online course access and offerings. However not because there is a demand must there be offerings. Assessment is needed. In response to this call several years ago the BSW Program on the Indianapolis campus began offering more than 75% of its courses online. To date we have over 95% of our BSW degree required courses online. We are now at the point to determine whether a fully online BSW is the next step. Prior to doing this we want to assess the historical impact, student experiences, and course quality when assessed for student learning outcomes with the expectation of using the results to determine feasibility, necessity, and readiness for an online cohort program.

Purpose: The demand for online course options will not go away. In fact many students are now demanding such options (McGuire, Gentle-Genitty, Galyean, 2013). Social work students offer generalist practice at the Bachelors level to clients of all walks. Preparing students to effectively deliver their skills and offer competent practice requires responsible planning and evaluation in delivery of course work and curriculum. The purpose of this assessment project is to do just that. To purposefully examine three factors 1) what we have been doing in online course delivery, 2) whether we are competently preparing social work student for competent practice via the current online offerings and 3) ascertain the relevance of what we are currently doing to assist in informing the continuation or expansion of a fully online BSW degree delivery.

The Specific aims of this project are to:

- 1) Amass a database of all IUPUI BSW online course sections from 2009 – 2013
- 2) Conduct a structured comparative analysis of how the course quality, instructor course evaluations, student GPA performance, and overall outcomes compared to regular face-to-face course sections.
- 3) Amass a database of all students who have met more than 50% of their BSW degree required courses online. Use the data gathered to compare student outcomes between online and in-person sections
- 4) Use the PULs and 10 Social Work competencies to determine rates of success in meeting student outcomes in the online course sections versus the in-person sections

INTENDED OUTCOMES OF PROJECT:

- 1) A questionnaire to assess student outcomes in online learning versus in-person
- 2) Comparative information between online and in-person cohorts for the last 4 years
- 3) Results to guide decision making of offering a fully online BSW cohort
- 4) If project produces positive outcomes the data will be used to improve and enhance the current online sections to offer a fully online BSW degree program

ASSESSMENT METHODS:

For the assessment measures the team will employ the use of

- Focus groups
- Individual interviews
- Student outcome questionnaire

DATA COLLECTION:

As BSW students declare and apply to enter the social work in the junior year, we will be tracking the impact of the online course delivery over two cohorts. We will explore...

- Databases
- Online Records of Course Completion
- Cumulative Student Records

- Student outcome questionnaire

METHODS OF EVALUATION AND DISSEMINATION:

- Team Review and Assessment
- Statistical Evaluation (Excel and SPSS)
- Comparative analysis of both quantitative and qualitative measures
- Content Analysis

Dissemination:

In addition to the final report shared with the PRAC Committee, we will disseminate the results through our BSW committee Meeting, Team Meetings, Faculty Senate, and Alumni Magazine. Efforts, where possible, will be expended to share via a journal publication

USE OF FINDINGS FOR PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT

As identified earlier in this document, the intention will be for the findings to be used to directly help the BSW Program, at IUPUI, to make changes and enhancements to its online program delivery. The results will help to improve and where positive outcomes arise, enhance the online course offering. The data will also help in informing us on student outcomes and performance over the last four years to determine viability of a fully online cohort. The results will also help administrative and curriculum faculty to learn how and when to make a move to a fully online curriculum. Ultimately, this will provide very rich information in our curriculum, program, and student outcomes for on-going improvement.

Budget

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|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| • Project Coordinator Incentives | \$500 x 2 = \$1,000 |
| • Focus Group Expenses | = \$1,000 |
| • Data analysis input and expense | = \$500 |
| | Total: \$2,500 |

Reference

*McGuire, L., Gentle-Genitty, C., & Galyean, E. (Spring, 2014). The ePortfolio: Product and process in assessing competencies for social work education. *Journal of Baccalaureate Social Work, Special Issue on Millennials*