




MEMORANDUM

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Elizabeth S. Chilton, Provost and Executive Vice President 

SUBJECT: Create a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work

DATE: February 26, 2024

The attached proposal is to create a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work degree for the WSU Tri-Cities campus.

Led by the College of Nursing, the Bachelor of Arts in Social Work (BASW) degree will prepare students for generalist practice to promote human and social well-being with interventions focused on prevention, support, and adjustment for social and psychological needs that impact individuals & families (micro), groups (mezzo), and organizations & communities (macro). Social workers engage with interdisciplinary teams to support the biopsychosocial needs of a diverse array of clients. A BASW degree is the minimum requirement to practice as a social worker.

This proposal is for a program that focuses on communities in central Washington and other rural, tribal or underserved regions of the state. Students in the BASW program will develop the skills to engage with diverse and rural populations, advocating for inclusive environments that advance human rights and social/economic justice. These students will be trained as members of an interprofessional healthcare team with skills and competencies to address and improve health equity and the social determinants that negatively impact health. This program will also focus on behavioral health and the intersection with substance abuse disorder.

The Provost's Office and its internal review committee have carefully reviewed the proposal and support the same. The following feedback provided by the internal review committee was conveyed to the College of Nursing:

- Infrastructure for assessment of the BASW competencies will need to be established. We encourage the college, campus, and department to make roles and responsibilities for assessment explicit. Please note that once students are enrolled, the new BASW will report annually to WSU on its system of assessing student learning.

We judge the proposal ready for the Senate review process.