

Social Work at PLNU

Point Loma Nazarene University SOCIAL WORK, SPRING 2018 FCAI Assessment Summary

CONTEXT

The Department of Sociology & Social Work at PLNU assesses the baccalaureate program in Social Work using both developmental and summative measures. The Foundational Curriculum Assessment Instrument (FCAI) is a standardized tool used nationally to assess programs against the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Accreditation Standards (EPAS). The PLNU social work program also utilizes scores from an ASWB standardized sample exam, and formal evaluation by professional social workers external to PLNU who serve as field internship supervisors as components of student and program assessment.

COMPARISON with FCAI NATIONAL SCORES

I. Program Cumulative Scores Compared with all Student Scores, National

Table 1. Achievement of Competencies

	Score Average % Correct	Score Range	Standard Deviation	t-test Value	p-value	# Students Meeting & Exceeding Competency
PLNU N=16	66.80 %	54.69 - 85.94 %	8.67	1.50	0.10	16/16 (100 %)
National N=11268	61.80 %	0.00 - 99.99 %	11.89			

Synopsis: The PLNU program average (66.8%) exceeded the national average of 61.80% with the lowest score from the program falling within the standard deviation for national scores and the highest score from the program exceeding the top end of the standard deviation for the national scores.

PLNU Assessment Standard: The program benchmark is for 75% of students to meet or exceed CSWE standards, 100% of PLNU students met or exceeded the overall national competency standard. The program met its established goal.

II. Subject Area Section Scores Compared with All Student Subject Area Scores, National

Table 2: Based on 2008 EPAS (Current Accreditation Standard for PLNU, by Subject Area)

Curricular Area	Competencies Metrics 2008 EPAS	Mean Section Score % Q Correct	Standard Deviation	Mean National Section Score % Q Correct (n=11268)	t-test value	p-value	# Students Meeting & Exceeding Competency
Total Score Practice	2.1.1 and 2.1.10 A-D	74.99 %	9.99	71.68 %	0.77	0.40	16/16 (100 %)
Total Score HSBE	2.1.7	59.99 %	19.04	63.60 %	-0.79	0.40	9/16 (56 %)
Total Score Policy	2.1.8	64.58 %	15.32	51.02 %	2.57	0.01 *	13/16 (81 %)

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Total Score: Research	2.1.6	59.02 %	16.99	51.23 %	1.46	0.10	12/16 (75 %)
Total Score Ethics	2.1.2	71.08 %	13.05	65.99 %	1.06	0.20	14/16 (88 %)
Total Score Diversity	2.1.4	59.37 %	19.01	56.71 %	0.50	0.60	9/16 (56 %)
Total Score Social & Economic Justice	2.1.5	77.67 %	17.47	66.19 %	2.00	0.04 *	15/16 (94 %)

Synopsis: A majority of PLNU students meet or exceed the national score in all seven curricular areas identified by CSWE as accreditation standards for the PLNU current accreditation. PLNU students did significantly better than the national cohort in two areas: Social Policy at 13.56% above national average ($p=.01$) and Social and Economic Justice at 11.48% above ($p=.04$).

PLNU Assessment Standard: 75- 100% of students achieved at or above the national standard in five of seven curricular areas. Only 56% of students achieve or exceed the standard in the remaining two areas: diversity and human behavior and the social environment. The PLNU goal is met in 5 of 7 areas.

It is noted that the same cohort of student met the program goals in another program of the standardized assessment measures, the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) test. ASWB is used in states that have Title Protection for the social work profession. Although not required in California, PLNU works to ensure that graduates would meet or exceed the ASWB standards. Analysis of the individual items in the subject areas on the FCAI and the ASWB will be used to determine if there students were consistently weak in a particular content within the subject area. If so, adjustment will be made to curriculum

Table 3, Based on 2015 EPAS (Accreditation standard for PLNU beginning 2023 by Competency

Curricular Area	Mean Section Score % Q Correct	Standard Deviation	Mean National Section Score % Q Correct (n=11268)	t-test value	p-value	# Students Meeting & Exceeding Competency
1 : Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior	66.66 %	9.62	58.70 %	1.02	0.30	16/16 (100 %)
2 : Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice	63.27 %	19.99	57.18 %	0.78	0.40	9/16 (56 %)
3 : Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice	70.31 %	15.86	60.01 %	1.29	0.15	14/16 (88 %)
4 : Engage in Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice	62.49 %	16.61	53.26 %	1.25	0.20	11/16 (69 %)
5 : Engage in Policy Practice	70.30 %	14.57	55.72 %	1.89	0.05	13/16 (81 %)
6 : Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations and Communities	74.93 %	43.26	49.57 %	2.47	0.01 *	12/16 (75 %)

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7 : Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities	51.78 %	15.87	57.24 %	-0.71	0.40	7/16 (44 %)
8 : Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities	72.31 %	18.53	75.50 %	-0.32	0.70	13/16 (81 %)
9 : Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities	93.66 %	24.18	77.40 %	1.38	0.15	15/16 (94 %)

Synopsis: Although not currently required for the CSWE accreditation of the PLNU program, the FCAI contents were assessed in comparison the CSWE 2015 EPAS which the program will need to meet at the time of reaffirmation of accreditation in 2023. The majority of PLNU students meets or exceeds the national score in all but one competency area as identified by CSWE. Although scoring significantly better on the competency for engagement with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities, the PLNU cohort fell slightly below (51.78) the national score (57.24) for assessing these clients. The PLNU score falls within the standard deviation. It is also noted that 81% of students scored at or above the national average for intervention with these same client types. This indicates that the program is successful at teaching students to engage and intervene with a variety of client types but may need more training in initial assessment. Assessment services are also measured on the ASWB and the program meets the standard on that instrument.

PLNU Assessment Standard: 75- 100% of students achieved at or above the national standard in six of nine curricular areas which meets the program goals. In addition to the assessment item discussed above, scores fall below in two areas: diversity and research. These competencies are also measured on the ASWB and professional field evaluations which indicate that research is an area for potential curricular change.