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March 18, 2022

James A. Troha, PhD
President
Juniata College
trohaj@juniata.edu

RE: *Reaffirm with a Progress Report*
Juniata College (PA)
Baccalaureate Social Work Program (BSW)
2015 Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS)

Dear President Troha:

At its February 2022 meeting, the Commission on Accreditation (COA) reviewed the *Reaffirmation* application for the baccalaureate social work program. The COA voted to reaffirm the program's accreditation for eight years, ending in February 2029, with a *Progress Report* to be reviewed by the program's accreditation specialist. The program's next *Reaffirmation* timeline is shortened due to the program receiving a one-year postponement during this review cycle.

In taking this action, the Commission identified the following area of concern:

Accreditation Standard B3.1.1: The program identifies the criteria it uses for admission to the social work program.

The program described the internal application and admission method known as "Program of Emphasis" (POE). However, it was unclear what admission criteria is used within the POE process, including the admission criteria for transfer students. The program did not provide any criteria, standards, or requirements that potential students must meet to be accepted into the social work program. Furthermore, the program described that prior to declaring social work as their POE, students must meet with the program coordinator to discuss the program requirements and determine the fit between the social work profession and the student's interests, values, and goals. However, criteria for admission based on the outcomes of this meeting were not provided.

The program is asked to identify the specific criteria it uses for admission to the social work program for all students, including transfer students.

COA reaffirmation decision types are described in section 2.6 COA *Reaffirmation Determination and Decisions* in the [EPAS Handbook](#).

The program is asked to submit one (1) electronic copy of the report, no later than December 1, 2022 for review during its February 2023 meeting. The report must align with the formatting and submission requirements detailed in section 1.2.11. *Document Submission Policy* in the [EPAS Handbook](#).

The accreditation status obtained at *Reaffirmation* only covers the components that were reviewed in the self-study at the time of the COA review. Changes may take place within the program prior to its next scheduled accreditation review; however, some program changes impact compliance with EPAS and require reporting to the COA or DOSWA per section 1.2.4 *Program Changes* in the [EPAS Handbook](#). Accreditation is an elective, program-driven, and self-managed peer-review process. Programs are solely responsible for implementing, demonstrating, and maintaining compliance with the EPAS during and in-between review cycles.

Please be in touch with Katie Gibson-Ledl, BSW, LLMSW-Macro, Accreditation Specialist in the Department of Social Work Accreditation, if there are any questions about this letter or the procedures and actions of the Commission on Accreditation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deana F. Morrow". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Deana F. Morrow, PhD, LICSW, ACSW
Chair, Commission on Accreditation

DFM/KGL

Cc: Lee Ann DeShong-Cook, MSS
Field Director and interim Program Director
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