

FUTURE ACTION ITEM #35

Establish a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work (Elizabeth S. Chilton)

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

SUBJECT: Establishment of a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work degree for the WSU Tri-Cities campus

PROPOSED: That the Board of Regents establish a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work degree for the WSU Tri-Cities campus

SUBMITTED BY: Elizabeth S. Chilton, Provost and Executive Vice President

SUPPORTING INFORMATION: The College of Nursing proposes the establishment of the 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.

This proposal was reviewed carefully and has support from the Provost's Office. This recommendation was recommended by the Faculty Senate on April 4, 2024. The Bachelor of Arts in Social Work degree proposal is available upon request.

The College of Nursing proposes the establishment of the Bachelor of Arts in Social Work degree effective as soon as feasible.