In June 2010, the Commission on Accreditation (COA) of the Council on Social Work Education voted to reaffirm the accreditation of the BSW and MSW programs for eight years ending June 2018.

The COA reviewed: (a) the School’s self-study, (b) the COA site visit report, and (c) the School’s response to the site visit report. Concerns raised in the COA site visit were clarified and thereby remedied in the School’s response and did not constitute a future basis for correction.

COA site visit report

The site visit report originally noted two concerns related to the BSW program in regards to its explication of program goals/objectives to educational policy, and having the necessary autonomy and administrative structure to achieve goals/objectives.

After reviewing the School’s response to the two concerns, the site visitor noted that the problems related more to an absence of discussion or semantic-issues in the self-study, rather than issues in policy and program.

- Goals/Objective to Educational Policy: *It was discovered that the problem seemed to reside more with semantics used by the program (abilities rather than objectives), and that may have contributed to the perception of an inconsistency with educational policy. Their conceptualization of abilities and outcomes are consistent with all twelve-foundation objectives.*
- Necessary Autonomy and Structure: *...despite the absence of direct discussion in the self-study materials, the BSW program has the necessary autonomy and administrative structure within the School to achieve its program goals and objectives.*

1-Year Update

The School continues to build upon its mission of global social justice, with directions in indigenous and international perspectives, and within the context of a Hawaiian place of learning. The assets of the BSW and MSW programs in regards to strong community connections, interdisciplinary collaborations, distance education, and university support for faculty-personnel needs, are noted in the COA site visitor’s additional comments.
In addition to assets, the site visitor also made comments on continuing challenges. The School is engaged in on-going efforts to address these.

- **Achieving full actualization of indigenization for Hawai`i’s future:** The School has been engaged in a 2-year strategic planning process with completion scheduled for spring 2012. Indigenous perspectives, within a context of a Hawaiian place of learning, and with a focus on the host culture, remains a dominant theme in strategic planning discussions. To this end, several actions steps are being taken or are in place, including: (a) Office of Hawaiian Affairs award of $270,000 primarily for student scholarships in the Hawaiian Learning Program (HLP), (b) first-time HLP reunion of over 50 graduates being planned, (c) interdisciplinary collaboration with Hawai`i ‘u wākea, JABSOM, Nursing, Law, CTAHR, Public Health, around UHM Native Hawaiian strategic initiatives, (d) leadership participation in the UH and UHM Task Forces on indigenous and Native Hawaiian affairs, and (e) continued collaborative community-based partnerships with organizations around Native Hawaiian health and well-being.

- **Future personnel resources that will permit the School to generate more social workers to meet the state’s labor force need:** University administration continues to support the School’s need to fill vacant positions, and there is strong guidance from the OVCAA on the preparation and justification for requests, and approval from the Chancellor. Since accreditation, we have had four new “I” hires, with two starting in August 2010, and two in August 2011. Presently, we are preparing to recruit for another “I” position, two “S” positions, and two APTs. Unfortunately, a recent request for approval of approximately 15 lecturer positions for this semester indicates that we still are far short of requisite faculty to teach our 300+ students. It is already known that in 2011-2012, there will be other urgent requests to fill other vacant positions.

- **Need for improved physical facility:** With advocacy from the Chancellor and OVCAA, and support from the OVCRGE and the Campus Facility Planning Board, the School is engaged in planning for tenancy in Gartley Hall in the future. This is a critical determination for the future growth and development of the School.