



Board of Oncology
Social Work
Certification

A Review of Changes to the Certified Oncology Social Worker (OSW-C™) Program: Elevation of Rigor, New Requirements, and New Candidate Platform

Christina Bach, LCSW, OSW-C, Tony Ellis, MEd, CAE, ICE-CCP, Lisl Schweers, LCSW, OSW-C, Amanda Trout, LCSW, OSW-C, Shannon Zaleski, LCSW, OSW-C, Harold Dean, LCSW, OSW-C, Sean Powell, LCSW, OSW-C, Alicia Rubel, LCSW, OSW-C, Trish Warren Van-Horn, LCSW, OSW-C

Abstract

The Board of Oncology Social Work Certification (BOSWC) was established in 2003 to ensure excellence in biopsychosocialspiritual care of oncology patients, families, caregivers, and their communities. This mission is accomplished by providing candidates the opportunity to earn and maintain the Certified Oncology Social Work (OSW-C) credential. Candidates must demonstrate excellence in oncology specific social work practice and ongoing, oncology-specific education and training, professional employment, and professional and community engagement.

BOSWC has committed over one year of work to review, refine, and enhance the purpose, scope, and requirements for the OSW-C credential. Goals included (1) clarify the program purpose and further definition of eligible candidates (2) define clear rationale for all program requirements and (3) revise policies and procedures to streamline and simplify the application and renewal process. BOSWC engaged thought leaders from diverse OSW settings, including AOSW and APOSW, to develop a structure of competencies, knowledge areas, and tasks required of adult and pediatric oncology social workers. All program requirements are now tied to the newly developed OSW-C competency domains (at right).

BOSWC Philosophy on Program Rigor

The OSW-C eligibility criteria stems directly from and is consistent with the defined purpose of the credential. It is established and maintained to be fair and equitable, defensible, data-informed, practical, balanced, acceptable to stakeholders, and appropriate to the maturity of the profession and credential. The program credentials individuals that have the knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) to effectively practice at the advanced level of licensed oncology social work by measuring the professional's preparation and ability to practice.

Subject Matter Experts

Stephanie Fooks Parker	Tara Schapmire	Claire Hogue
Carolyn Messner	Ginny Vaitones	Valerie Kennedy Lang
Catherine Credeur	Lisa Capparella	Robin Maggio
Karlynn BrintzenhofeSzoc	Eucharía Borden	Darren Arthur
Krista Nelson	Iris Fineberg	Debora Newton
Kathy Smolinski	Maryellen LaJeunesse	Brenda Ling
Leora Lowenthal	Nicole Ellis	Eileen Joyce
Debra Mattison	Renee Joshi	

Domains of Practice

Clinical Assessment
and Intervention

Care
Coordination

Professional
Advocacy and
Political Action

Organization
Support and Service

Professional
Education

General Rationale for All Program Requirements

Initial Education, Licensure, Accumulated Oncology Social Work Practice, Demonstrated Practice, Attestations, and Continuing Education required for candidate portfolios as evidence of the professional's knowledge and ability to effectively perform core components of the oncology social worker competencies and role.

References

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