



Equivalency Standards in Education and Regulatory Practice:
International Mobility

Darla Spence Coffey, PhD, MSW
Council on Social Work Education



COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

International Social Work Degree Recognition & Evaluation Service (ISWDRES)

The screenshot shows the CSWE Accreditation website. The browser address bar displays <http://www.cswe.org/Accreditation.aspx>. The website header includes the CSWE logo and the text "COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION" with the tagline "Strengthening the Profession of Social Work" and "LEADERSHIP IN RESEARCH, CAREER ADVANCEMENT, AND EDUCATION". A navigation menu includes "About CSWE", "Membership", "Accreditation", "Events/Meetings", "News", "Publications & Multimedia", "Centers & Initiatives", "Topics", "Share", "Email", and "Print".

The main content area is titled "Accreditation" and features a decorative banner with rolled-up diplomas. Below the banner, a sidebar on the left lists various links: EPAS Revision Information, Accreditation Workshops, Directory of Accredited Programs, Formerly Accredited Programs, 2008 Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards, 2008 EPAS Handbook, EPAS Implementation, Candidacy, Reaffirmation, Distance Education, and International Degree Review.

The main content area includes the following sections:

- Accreditation**: A sub-section header.
- About CSWE Accreditation**: A paragraph stating that CSWE's Commission on Accreditation (COA) is responsible for developing accreditation standards that define competent preparation and ensuring that social work programs meet them. It also mentions that the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), the CSWE Office of Social Work Accreditation (OSWA) administers a multistep accreditation process that involves program self-studies, site visits, and COA reviews.
- Current Number of Social Work Programs**: A paragraph stating that as of the February 2015 COA meeting, there are:
 - 504 accredited baccalaureate social work programs
 - 235 accredited master's social work programs
 - 16 baccalaureate social work programs in candidacy
 - 19 master's social work programs in candidacy
- Recognized Organization**: A box featuring the CHEA logo and text: "CHEA A CHEA-recognized Accrediting Organization". Below the logo, it states: "In accordance with the requirements of CSWE's recognition body, the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), the CSWE Office of Social Work Accreditation (OSWA) administers a multistep accreditation process that involves program self-studies, site visits, and COA reviews."
- CONNECT WITH CSWE**: A section with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, and Instagram. Below the icons, it shows "1 like" and "816" for Facebook, and "Follow @CSocialWorkEd" for Twitter.
- Resources**: A section with a link titled "Learn About Degree Mills and Accreditation Mills" and a sub-headline "The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), the organization".

The footer of the page shows a 100% zoom level and the text "ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORK EDUCATORS".

ISWDRES - Purpose

- Evaluation of baccalaureate or master's level social work education completed abroad to determine equivalency to a social work degree earned from an accredited program by the CSWE.



Basis for Recognition

- Based on the comparability of the competencies (program objectives), course descriptions and level of the applicant's social work education to social work education in the United States.



Application Process

- The application process is conducted online and is divided into three parts:
 - Step I: The Screening Request Form
 - Step II: The Online Recognition Application
 - Step III: Official Supporting Documents

Evaluation Process

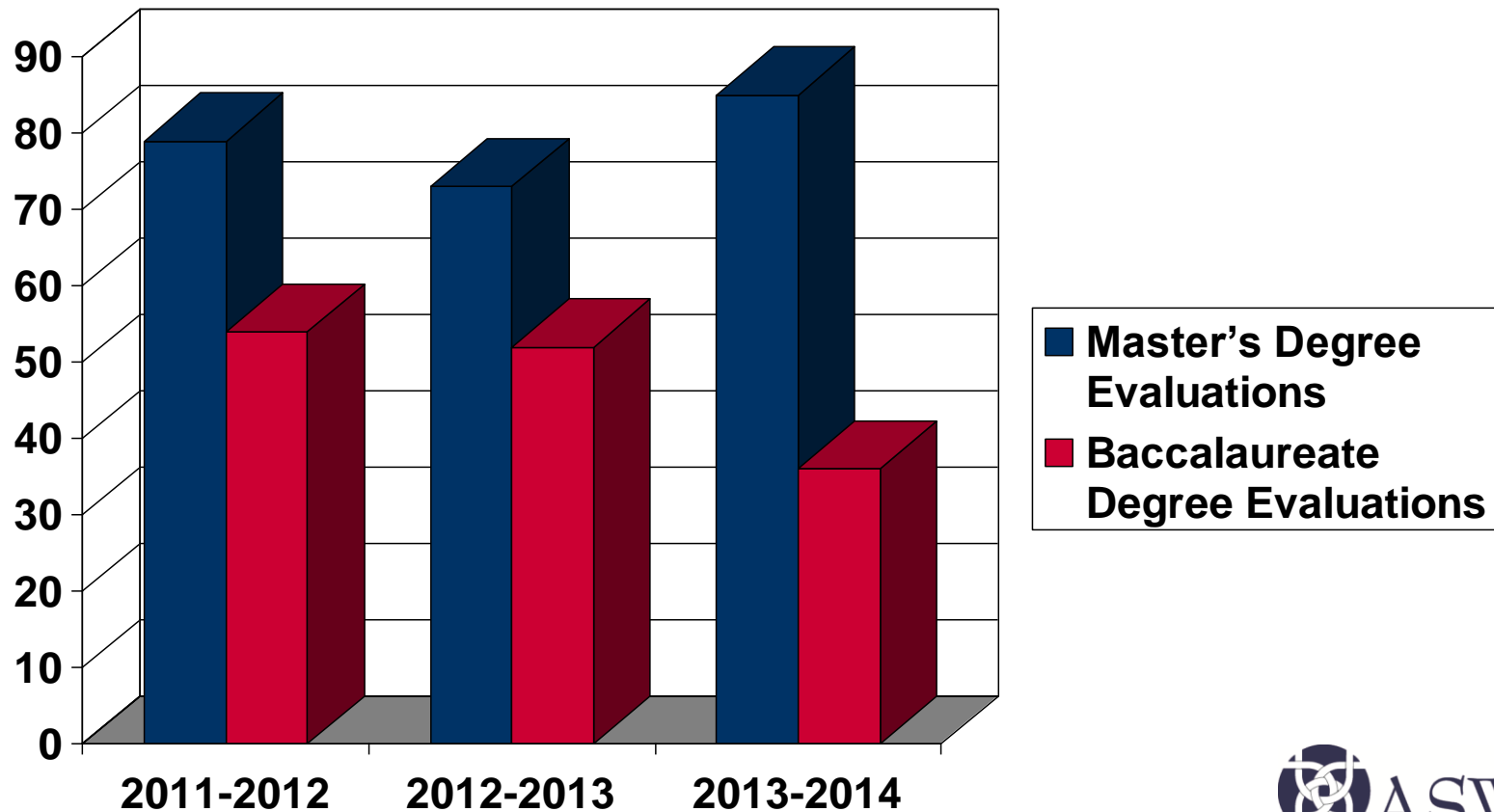
- CSWE contracts with a social work educator that has a strong understanding of the EPAS
- Evaluations are generally made within two weeks of receiving completed documentation.
- The decision is communicated in a formal letter. Each applicant is entitled to one copy of the evaluation plus one copy for a designee (e.g., admissions office of college or university, a licensing board, or a potential employer).

Canadian Association of Social Work Education

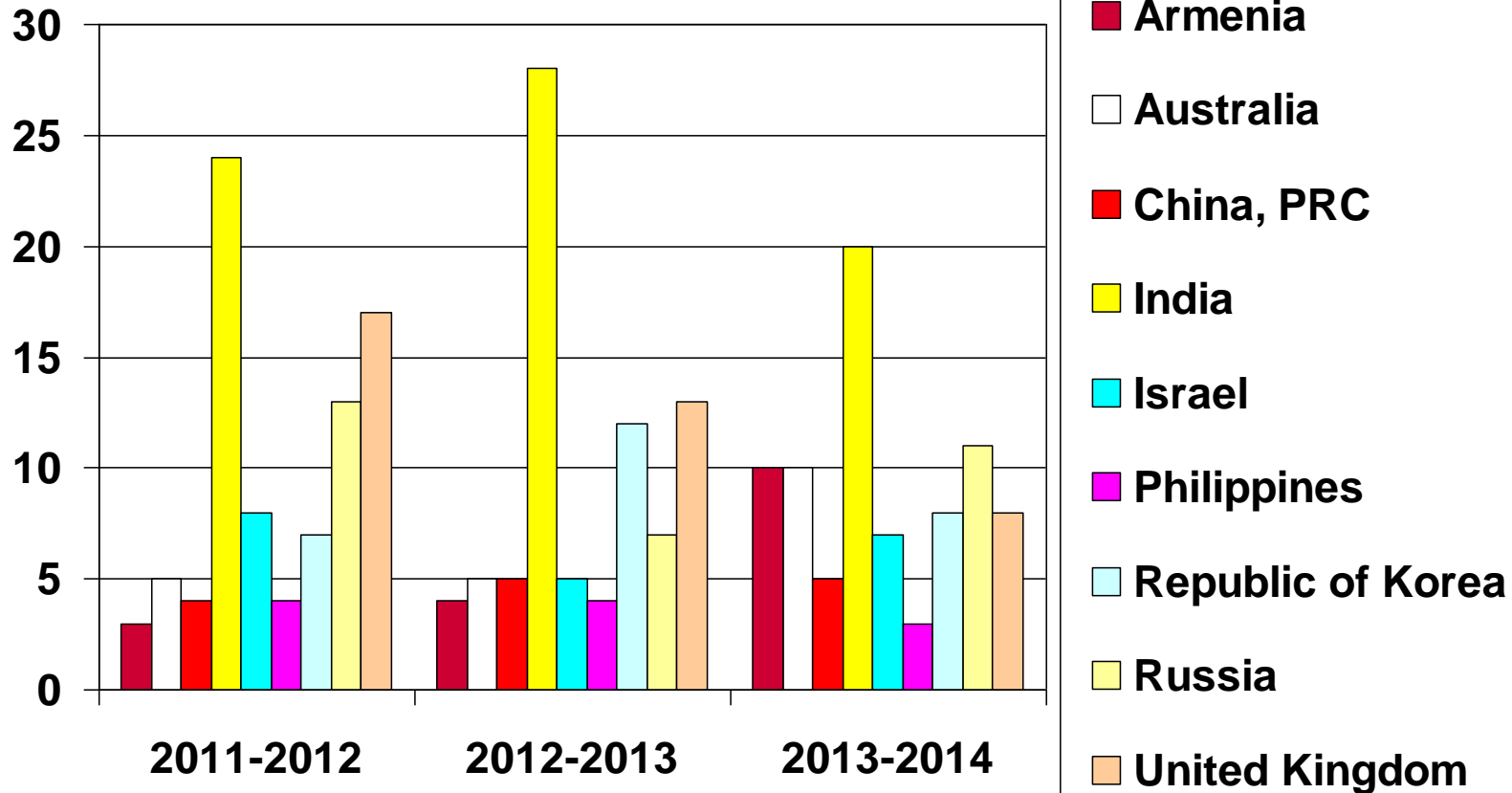
- Mutual Degree Recognition Agreement, June 2006



Completed Evaluations By Degree (2011-2014)



Approvals by Country (Top 9)



Increasing demand of social workers in China

- In 2006, the government set a goal to have 2 million social workers by 2020 (Central Government's Plan)
- Social work profession currently cannot meet the requirements of this plan
- As a result, more programs are needed

CSWE – China Collaborative

China



CSWE – China Collaborative

- 2012 – 2017 (5-year partnership)
- Agreement not to establish an on-site MSW program
- Agreement to focus on capacity-building in its work involving Chinese students studying in its U.S.-based program
- Agreement to host Chinese faculty, staff, and students on an annual basis, including providing housing and arranging local travel
- Demonstration of sufficient funds (a minimum of \$10,000 each year or \$50,000 for the project's duration) available each year to support the institutional partnership
- Programs selected identified previous global experiences including prior efforts in mainland China
- Assurance of support from the college or university chief executive officer (e.g., president or chancellor) in the form of a letter

7 partnerships

US universities	China universities
Arizona State University	Huazhong University of Science and Technology
Case Western Reserve University	Northwest University
Fordham University	Jilin University
University of Alabama	Yunnan University
University of Chicago	Peking University
University of Houston	East China University of Science and Technology
University of Southern California	Nanjing University