CURRICULUM ASSESSMENT: A STANDARDIZED INSTRUMENT TO MEASURE KNOWLEDGE OF THE EPAS COMPETENCIES

CSWE APM

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www.SWEAPINSTRUMENTS.ORG

Social Work Education Assessment Project

SWEAP

Instruments for Program Evaluation

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KNOWLEDGE BASED ASSESSMENT

"Social work competence is the ability to integrate and apply social work knowledge, values, and skills to practice situations in a purposeful, intentional, and professional manner to promote human and community well-being" (CSWE EPAS 2015).

WHAT IS SWEAP?

- SWEAP is committed to providing the highest quality assessment instruments
  - Designed to aid undergraduate and graduate social work programs in evaluation necessary for program development and improvement.

- SWEAP instruments are specifically designed to be responsive to the Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)
  - Related to both initial accreditation and reaffirmation.

- However, each social work program is individually responsible for appropriately reporting and interpreting data provided through SWEAP instruments to CSWE.

WHAT IS SWEAP?
SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION ASSESSMENT PROJECT

- Non-Profit (501c3)

- Volunteer Run

- Service to Profession

- Based out of Metropolitan State University of Denver

RESULT:

- 6 (copyrighted) instruments in support of program assessment and curriculum development.

SWEAP Instruments

SWEAP offers an assessment package for both BSW and MSW assessment.

- Entrance

- Exit

- Alumni/Graduate & Employer

- Curriculum Instrument (FCAI)

- Field Instrument (FPPAI)

- Instrument Customization for MSW Specialized Practice Assessment

Today, our presentation will focus on the FCAI. If you would like more information about other instruments, please visit us at our booth.

FOUNDATION CURRICULUM ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT

- Measures how well a program's curriculum prepares students with the **knowledge** (CSWE dimension) necessary for competent professional social work practice.

- The FCAI is an exam, designed to be taken by students as they enter a social work program and again at the time of exit, with the explicit purpose of testing for knowledge gained throughout the program's curriculum.

FOUNDATION CURRICULUM ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT

- The newest version (v10) of the FCAI consists of multiple choice questions that evaluate student knowledge (one dimension) across all nine (9) competency areas of the 2015 EPAS

- Prior instrument, with old report still available.

TOTAL RESPONDENTS

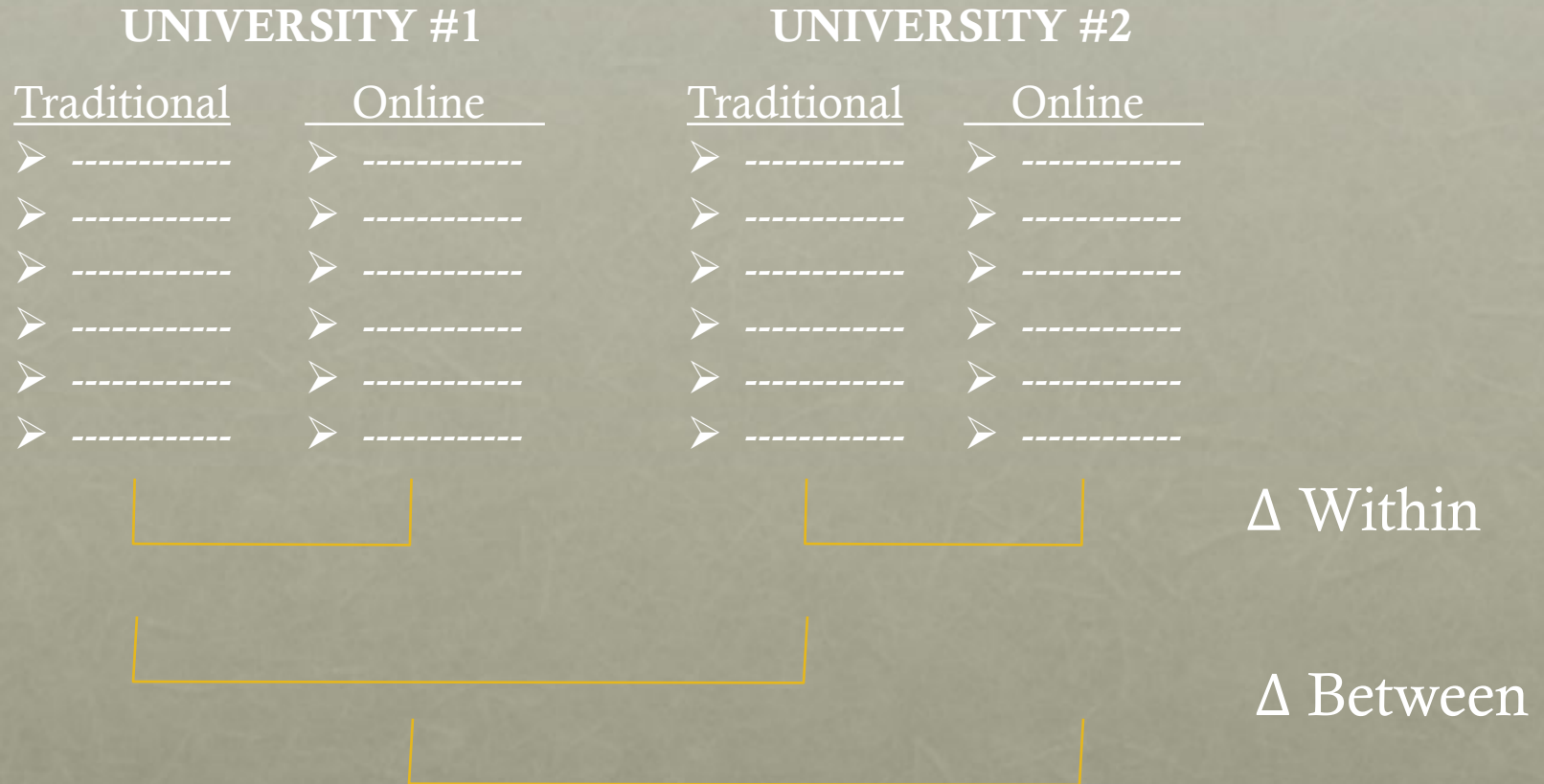| FCAI (2009-October 2018) Total Responses	47,622
Current/ EPAS 2015 Responsive (Version 10, since September 2016)	BSW = 15,819 MSW = 3052
# of Programs	BSW = 271 Programs MSW = 63 Programs

CURRICULAR COMPONENTS

Curriculum Area	Number of Questions
Competency 1–Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior	7
Competency 2 –Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice	6
Competency 3 –Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice	6
Competency 4 –Engage In Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice	7
Competency 5 –Engage in Policy Practice	7
Competency 6 –Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities	5
Competency 7 –Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities	5
Competency 8 –Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities	5
Competency 9 –Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities	5

SAMPLE PRACTICE QUESTION

- Determining progress toward goal achievement is one facet of the _____ stage.

  - a. Engagement
  - b. Evaluation
  - c. Assessment
  - d. Planning

Standardized Measure

UNIVERSITY #1

Traditional | Online
➤ ------------ | ➤ ------------
➤ ------------ | ➤ ------------
➤ ------------ | ➤ ------------
➤ ------------ | ➤ ------------
➤ ------------ | ➤ ------------
➤ ------------ | ➤ ------------

UNIVERSITY #2

Traditional | Online
➤ ------------ | ➤ ------------
➤ ------------ | ➤ ------------
➤ ------------ | ➤ ------------
➤ ------------ | ➤ ------------
➤ ------------ | ➤ ------------
➤ ------------ | ➤ ------------

Δ Within

Δ Between

Allows For Direct Comparisons Both Within & Between Programs

DEVELOPMENT OF V10

- In response to EPAS 2015

- Knowledge as a dimension of each competency

- Further development of the FCAI question set

- Development of new and modified questions, based on expert feedback (face validity)

- Piloting of Instrument
  - BSW students
  - Item Difficulty Analysis (close to .5)

RELIABILITY TESTING

- Version 10 (EPAS 2015)
  - Pilot September 2016
    - N=40

  - December 2017
    - N=2302

RELIABILITY TESTING V10 (2015 EPAS)

- Item Difficulty Analysis
  - Pilot
    - Around .50-.60, full scale and item level
  - December 2017:
    - Full test: .60
      - Good level overall
    - Item level:.21 to .95
      - Will be reviewing items above 80 and under 30 this summer for adjustment/removal/replacement

RELIABILITY TESTING V10 (2015 EPAS)

- Chronbach's Alpha
  - Full Scale: .878
  - EPAS Scale Analysis
    - EPAS 1 .378
    - EPAS 2 .487
    - EPAS 3 .508
    - EPAS 5 .435
    - EPAS 6 .303
    - EPAS 7 .517
    - EPAS 8 .581
    - EPAS 9 .387

RELIABILITY TESTING V10 (2015 EPAS)

- Split Half Analysis
  - EPAS 1 .418
  - EPAS 2 .487
  - EPAS 3 .504
  - EPAS 4 .457
  - EPAS 5 .431
  - EPAS 6 .357
  - EPAS 7 .498
  - EPAS 8 .544
  - EPAS 9 .379

RELIABILITY TESTING V10 (2015 EPAS)

- Test-Retest Reliability Analysis

V10 FCAI REPORT

- Scale scores for each competency:
  - Aggregated by program, cohort, defined group
  - With comparisons to the national average.

- For an additional cost, programs can order reporting of individual students' scale scores.
  - Only available for online instruments and not available for paper.
  - Individualized reports DO NOT HAVE NAMES.
    - Programs will have to match students by student ID number.
  - ***NOT TO BE USED FOR GRADING***

FCAI REPORT
OVERALL SCORES PRE-POST

Reports are generated on the fly.
Every time you download a report you are re-running analysis against updated database

EPAS 2015 Foundation (2016)

	Score Average % Correct	Score Range	Standard Deviation	t-test Value	p-value	# Students Meeting & Exceeding Competency
Program N=15	49.31 %	7.55 - 73.58 %	15.57	-2.38	**0.01 ***	8/15 (53 %)
National N=2099	61.38 %	0.00 - 90.57 %	14.37			

Meeting & Exceeding Competency relates to students answering 50% or more of the total number of questions correct.
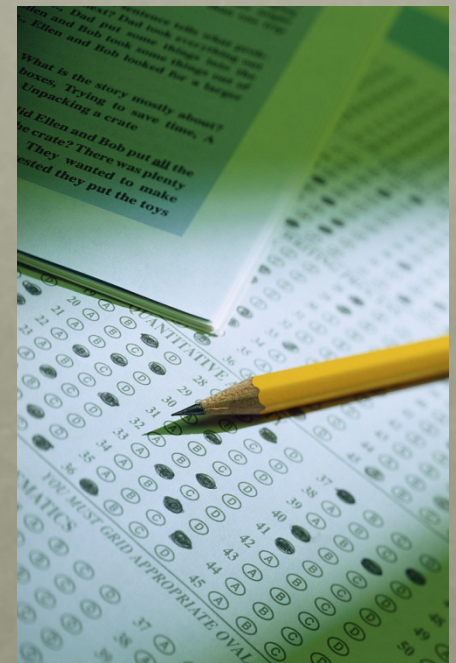
Competency "threshold" can be customized for $10

FCAI SAMPLE REPORT

- [LINK TO DROPBOX FILE](#)

- [LINK TO VIDEO](#)

EXPANSION BEYOND BSW

- Based upon CSWE assertions related to educational levels in social work education, we expanded testing to three additional groups:
  - MSW foundation students:
    - **entering**
    - **exiting**
  - Advanced standing students:
    - **entering**

POINTS TO KEEP IN MIND ABOUT THE FCAI

1. Original purpose of this instrument
   - To review and improve curriculum

2. Under EPAS 2015, instrument can provide measure of knowledge dimension for each competency

3. Program should "monitor" scores over several years (or several cohorts) for trends.

4. FCAI is a measure of "value added" from program entry to exit.

5. Programs select own benchmarks (% of students who achieve).
   - Competency achievement is automatically set at 50% but can be changed at the request of the school (additional cost).

SWEAP BOOTH

PLEASE COME BY AND SEE US AT OUR BOOTH

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QUESTIONS?

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REFERENCE

- CSWE (2015). EPAS Standards. Retrieved from: http://www.cswe.org/getattachment/Accreditation/Accreditation-Process/2015-EPAS/2015EPAS_Web_FINAL.pdf.aspx