

AccreditED

HOW SOCIAL WORK PROGRAMS BECAME IDEOLOGY-DRIVEN

More than half of accredited social work programs now require anti-racism, DEI, Critical Race Theory, and “anti-oppressive” ideology — because the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), the *sole U.S. accreditor*, made these *mandates* part of its 2022 standards, with nearly 500 programs that implement this requirement. This directly affects students in schools nationwide, especially with the recent push to increase social workers throughout K-12.

KEY FINDINGS

1. CSWE mandates Antiracism/DEI for accreditation (ADEI)

- The 2022 standards embed anti-racism, anti-oppression, privilege, and power into **8 of 9 required competencies**.
- Programs must integrate these concepts across curriculum, mission, fieldwork, and evaluation.
- CSWE has collected **over \$40M** in membership and accreditation fees from America’s Schools of Social Work from 2016–2023.

2. Admissions often function as ideological screens

Applicants are asked to:

- Show “commitment to anti-racism”
- Describe DEI/anti-racism activism or lived experience
- Affirm CRT or anti-oppressive frameworks

3. Federal dollars reinforce it

- The Biden Administration awarded \$91M to 25 university social work programs; 22 of 25 still embed mandatory anti-racism/DEI ideology.

EXAMPLES:

- **Cal State:** Programs grounded in CRT and intersectionality.
- **Rutgers:** Added a 10th competency, “Liberatory Consciousness.”
- **U. Alaska Anchorage:** Admissions judged partly on anti-racism views.
- **San Francisco State, USC, Smith:** decided to no longer use the term “field” to refer to practicum/internship because it “could be considered anti-Black or anti-immigrant.”

CSWE is the only accreditor.

Its 2022 ideological requirements shape the entire national pipeline of future social workers — including those entering K–12 schools, hospitals, clinics, and mental health systems.