LIBERTY
UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT *of* SOCIAL WORK

Bachelor of Science in Social Work

Gate Handbook

2021-2022

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I.   INTRODUCTION

This document provides an overview of Liberty University's Social Work policies, procedures, and requirements for the Gate Process required for the Bachelor of Science Degree in Social Work (BSSW).

Any inquiries and/or comments regarding any of the information included in this document should be directed to the Department: bssw@liberty.edu.

The Gate Team is also available by appointment in Demoss Hall 3318 or via a Microsoft Teams meeting.

II.   BSSW PROGRAM GATE PROCESS

A. What is the Gate Process and Why Do We Have a It?

The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) requires that all social work programs have a gatekeeping process to ensure that students have a thorough understanding of the profession of social work and will be a good fit for the program and profession. The Gate Process is a four-step process that is designed to meet our responsibility of ensuring graduates are not only a good fit for social work, but are also academically and professionally equipped to enter into the social work profession as competent generalist social workers.

Both the Residential and Online BSSW program options include four Gates. We encourage students to take some time reviewing the Gate process webpage to gain an understanding of the Gate process and what is required of each student. Students are expected to be knowledgeable of the requirements of each Gate. Each student must apply for and be approved through all 4 Gates to be eligible to graduate from the BSSW Program. Each Gate course is a full semester, 0-credit course. Students can only be enrolled in one Gate course per semester. Successfully completing the 4 Gates in the program serves the following purposes:

> **SOWK 294 (Gate 1)** – Formal approval into the program.
>
> *Declaring Social Work as the major is not the same as being approved into the BSSW program. All students must be approved through Gate 1 by successfully completing SOWK 294, to be officially approved into the BSSW program.*
>
> **SOWK 365 (Gate 2)** – Approval to be enrolled in SOWK 370: Junior Field Experience and Seminar in the following semester.
>
> **SOWK 465 (Gate 3)** – Approval to be enrolled in SOWK 470: Senior Field Experience and Seminar in the following semester.
>
> **SOWK 494 (Gate 4)** – Approval to take the final comprehensive exam and graduate from the program.

B. Gate Courses

B.1. Course Information

Each Gate course is an A-term (full semester), 0-credit course. Each course is also Pass/Fail. All assignments must be submitted correctly by the deadline in order to be eligible to successfully complete the course. If students are unable to successfully complete the course, they will need to re-enroll for the course in a later semester.

All students must successfully complete all 4 Gates, in subsequent order, to be eligible to move through and graduate from the BSSW program.

Students can only be enrolled in **one Gate course per semester**. Approval through each Gate (a passing grade for the course) must be granted before students can continue forward into the next Gate course.

B.2. Registration

Students will register for the Gate courses through the University's registration system in the same manner that registration for traditional classes is done. Hybrid/Online students can also get registered for Gate courses by contacting LUO Advising. Students must register for these courses by the registration deadlines for A-term courses set by the Registrar's office.

Students who are registered for a Gate course but then drop below eligibility requirements during the Gate course will not be eligible to successfully complete or pass the course. If this happens, students will need to re-enroll in the course for a future semester when they again meet the eligibility requirements.

The first assignment due in each Gate course is submitting a **Degree Completion Plan Audit (DCPA)** to ensure that the student meets the eligibility requirements for the course. If the DCPA does not reflect successful completion (C or higher) or current enrollment for each of the appropriate Gate prerequisite courses, the student will not be eligible to successfully complete the course. Similarly, if the student's GPA does not meet the required 2.5 minimum on the submitted DCPA assignment, the student will not be eligible to successfully complete the course. If the student is unable to successfully complete the course, they will need to re-enroll for the course in a later semester.

B.3. Grading & Attendance

There will be assignments due weekly for each Gate course like any other course. Successful completion of all assignments by assigned deadlines **and** full or provisional approval in the Gate Decision assignment are required to successfully complete each Gate course. Consistent with the University's late policy, assignments will not be accepted if submitted more than two weeks past the assigned deadline.

These courses are Pass/Fail. The following would result in a failing grade for a Gate course:

- Not being granted approval through the Gate associated with the course (Gate 1, 2, 3, or 4);

- Failing to submit the required assignments for the course by each deadline (Gate 1, 2, 3, or 4);

- Failing to complete the Field Enrollment Process associated with the course (Gate 2 or Gate 3); and/or

- Not passing the Comprehensive Exam associated with the course (Gate 4).

B.4. Tuition & Credit Hours

There are no tuition costs associated with the Gate courses. Gate courses are 0 credits each and will not impact the number of credit hours students can take in a semester.

C. BSSW Program Eligibility

As noted in the Liberty University catalog, students interested in earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Social Work (BSSW) at Liberty University must meet the requirements of the Department of Social Work. The BSSW requirements include meeting the university admission criteria as well as the additional standards associated with preparing competent social workers for generalist practice. These additional standards were developed by the Department of Social Work at Liberty University. Acceptance to Liberty University and declaring social work as one's major is the way in which a student begins the process. However, this first step is not synonymous with approval into the BSSW program.

This is accomplished by approval through Gate 1 of the program. The Gate 1 Application process is housed in SOWK 294, a full semester (16-week), 0-credit course in the University's academic platform.

Approval into the BSSW program and progression through this rigorous, professional degree requires successful completion of the Gate process, a series of four sequenced, non-credit Gate courses (SOWK 294, SOWK 365, SOWK 465, SOWK 494). The first step of the Gate process is completion of SOWK 294.

BSSW candidates are to follow the steps associated with the process and meet the criteria established by the program. Typically, if residential students are following a more traditional 4-year schedule, they are eligible for SOWK 294 (Gate 1) in their sophomore year. For hybrid (online) students who transfer in courses, they may be eligible to apply as soon as their second semester at LU, depending on the transferred courses. If students have not met the criteria by that

time, they may apply in a subsequent semester. To be eligible to apply for SOWK 294 (Gate 1), all candidates must satisfactorily meet the criteria described below:

- Adhere to the standards set forth in the Liberty Way for residential students or the Personal Code of Honor for hybrid/online students.

- Be in good academic standing with the University and have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50.

- Have successfully completed (earned a "C" or higher) SOWK 101.

- Be currently enrolled (for the semester in which they are applying) or have successfully completed (earned a "C" or higher) BIOL 102, ENGL 102, PSYC 101, SOWK 120 & SOWK 150 (or SOWK 135), SOWK 250, SOWK 260, and SOWK 270.

Once students are granted entry into the BSSW Program, students are to maintain their status by consistently meeting the following criteria:

1. Earn a "C" or higher in all major and major foundational courses.

2. Maintain an overall GPA of 2.5 or higher to be eligible for approval through Gates 2, 3, and 4.

3. Maintain satisfactory citizenship and ethical behavior.

4. Maintain professional standards as defined by the Department.

5. Consistently demonstrate the values of the profession: integrity, service, the value of human relationships, dignity and worth of a person, competence, and social justice.

6. Be successfully approved through program Gates 2, 3, and 4.

D. Gate Decisions

To be eligible to pass a Gate course, students must receive an approval in their Gate Decision for that course. There are three possible options a student could receive as their Gate Decision:

1. **Full Approval through Gate:** This is granted when the student has successfully completed all Gate 1/2/3/4 prerequisite courses and documentation. There may be some additional feedback from the Department for which Areas of Needed or Recommended Growth would be specified.

2. **Provisional Approval through Gate:** This is granted when the student is pending the successful completion of one or more Gate 1/2/3/4 prerequisite courses or documents. There may be some additional feedback from the Department for which Areas of Needed or Recommended Growth would be specified.

3. **Deny Gate Procession:** Students can be denied Gate 1/2/3/4 approval for the following reasons:

- The student does not meet eligibility requirements for the current Gate (GPA less than 2.5 or insufficient prerequisite requirements);

- The student does not submit all completed documentation and/or attend required meetings in the course;

- The student does not successfully complete the Field Proposal Process associated with the course (Gate 2 or Gate 3);

- Academic misconduct/integrity issues arise through the student's use of non-approved, academic resources (i.e., internet search engines, any online study/resource aid sites)[1];

- If it becomes apparent through the application documentation and interview process that the student and program may not be a good fit. Professional feedback from professors and staff is also considered (primarily Gate 1);

- The student not passing the Comprehensive Exam associated with the course (Gate 4).

E. Growth Areas

Our goal as a department is to help each of our students develop as a whole person to be the best social worker they can be. As students move through the BSSW Gate process, a particular area of needed or recommended growth may be identified for a student. If so, the they will be notified directly through their Gate Decisions (Gate 1, 2, and 3) and given steps to help them grow in competency in that area. The following are the most common:

- Professionalism
- Written Communication
- Counseling Services

Growth Areas are assessed for each student at each Gate. Areas of Needed or Recommended Growth are specific to each student and not every student has areas identified at each Gate. If any are identified for a student, they will be provided specific feedback within the Gate Decision, which is sent to the student via email and posted in the Gate Decision section of the course gradebook.

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[1] The posting or utilizing of resources from non-approved, external resources (i.e. Course Hero, Quizlett, etc.) is considered academic misconduct. The Honor Codes of the university would consider posting course work online as aiding in academic misconduct, and using resources/sites like these would fall under "using unauthorized aids of any kind". If a student is found to have utilized resources like these, they will be reported to the University for disciplinary action. Additionally, use of such resources is also grounds for immediate denial of a student's current Gate and potential for dismissal from the program.

The documentation needed to demonstrate growth in the identified area will be referenced in the student's Gate Decision notification email.

E.1. Areas of Needed Growth

If an **Area of <u>Needed</u> Growth** is specified for a student in the Gate Decision, then the Department will follow up with the student regarding their growth in that area when they enroll for the next, subsequent Gate.

For Areas of Needed Growth, students will need to submit specific documentation in their next Gate course as part of demonstrating growth in the needed area. The documentation needed will be specified to the student in the Gate Decision indicating the needed growth area.

E.2. Areas of Recommended Growth

For many students, an **Area of <u>Recommended</u> Growth** is included in the Gate Decision. For Areas of Recommended Growth, no documentation is needed when the student is in their next Gate course. These growth areas are recommended to students as an encouragement to work on specific areas of competency, thereby aiding students in developing into more prepared and well-rounded future social workers.

F. SOWK 294: Gate 1 Application Process Overview

Students may declare a major in social work at any time. However, this does not automatically approve students into the BSSW Program. Students will be officially approved into the program only after they have successfully completed SOWK 294 (approved through Gate 1). Typically, if residential students are following a more traditional 4-year schedule, they are eligible for SOWK 294 (Gate 1) in their sophomore year. For hybrid (online) students who transfer in courses, they may be eligible to apply as soon as their second semester at LU, depending on the transferred courses. If students have not met the criteria by that time, they may apply in a subsequent semester.

F.1 Gate 1 Prerequisite Requirements

All of the following criteria must be met in order to be eligible for SOWK 294 (Gate 1):

- Students must be in good standing with the department, which includes the following:

    o Have a "C" or higher in all Major and Major Foundational Requirements.

    o Maintain satisfactory citizenship and ethical behavior.

    o Consistently demonstrate the values of the profession: integrity, service, the value of human relationships, dignity, and worth of a person, competence, and social justice.

- Students must have a minimum GPA of 2.5.

- All required prerequisite courses for SOWK 294 (Gate 1) must either be successfully completed (C or higher) or in progress during the semester they are registered for SOWK 294. These prerequisite courses include BIOL 102, ENGL 102, PSYC 101, SOWK 101[2], SOWK 120 & SOWK 150 (or SOWK 135), SOWK 250, SOWK 260, and SOWK 270.

  - SOWK 101 is the only prerequisite that must be successfully completed (C or higher) prior to a student's enrollment in SOWK 294.

F.2. Gate 1 Application Process

In order to be eligible to gain approval into the program, students must submit all required Gate 1 materials within SOWK 294. Students are eligible for SOWK 294 during the semester in which they are enrolled for their last Gate 1 prerequisite course[3] along with meeting the minimum GPA requirement of 2.5.

For an overview of the assignments required for SOWK 294 (Gate 1), please see the SOWK 294 (Gate 1) Requirements.

The BSSW Program Support Coordinator team reviews all application documentation for compliance with the requirements and suitability for the program. If it becomes clear through reviewing a student's documentation that additional, follow-up information is needed, the student will be selected for an interview. Their application documentation is then passed on to two faculty members and/or the faculty and staff member(s) assigned to interview the student. Interview questions are tailored to the student based on the information described in their Gate 1 application documents. Interviews with residential students are conducted in-person or via Microsoft Teams, a program that includes a secure video calling service, and interviews with hybrid/online students are conducted via Microsoft Teams.

After reviewing the student's application documents and completing the Gate 1 interview, the interviewers make a recommendation to the Department Chair for approval or denial. If a denial is recommended for the student, a second interview is scheduled with BSSW program leadership to further explore the concerns prior to a final decision being made.

Recommendations from the interviewers and faculty feedback assist the Department Chair in deciding the student's official Gate 1 Decision.

If a student is denied, their Gate 1 Decision would include a rationale for the Department's decision. The BSSW Program team would then work directly with the student on the next steps for alternate options or steps the student will need to take to be eligible to reapply at a later time.

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[2] SOWK 101 must be completed with a "C" or higher prior to the semester in which a student enrolls in SOWK 294.

Not all Gate 1 Applicants are selected for an interview. If a student is not selected for an interview, their application is processed, and they are sent a Gate 1 Decision by the end of the semester in which they are enrolled in that Gate course. All students will be notified of their Gate 1 Decision via email and in the Gate 1 Decision section of the gradebook in SOWK 294.

The notification may contain specific recommendations (**Section E. Growth Areas**) to aid in the successful competency development of the students. Students wanting to proceed with the process of program approval must follow the directions outlined in the notification to be eligible to continue to the next Gate. Growth Areas are assessed for each student at each Gate.

All students who complete the course will receive one of the following Gate 1 Decision options:

1. **Full Approval through Gate One:** This is granted when the student has successfully completed all Gate 1 prerequisite courses and documentation. There may be some additional concerns from the Department for which Areas of Needed Growth would be specified. Suggested Areas of Recommended Growth may also be included.

2. **Provisional Approval through Gate One:** This is granted when the student is pending the successful completion of one or more Gate 1 prerequisite courses or documents. There may be some additional concerns from the Department for which Areas of Needed Growth would be specified. Suggested Areas of Recommended Growth may also be included.

3. **Deny Gate One Procession:** Students can be denied Gate 1 approval for the following reasons:

   1. The student does not submit all required, completed application documentation;

   2. The student submits an application but is not eligible to apply (GPA less than 2.5 or insufficient prerequisite requirements);

   3. Academic misconduct/integrity issues through the student's use of non-approved, academic resources (i.e., internet search engines, any online study/resource aid sites)[3]; or

If it becomes apparent through the application documentation and interview process that the student and program may not be a good fit. Feedback from professors is also considered.[4]

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[3] The posting or utilizing of resources from non-approved, external resources (i.e. Course Hero, Quizlett, etc.) is considered academic misconduct. The Honor Codes of the university would consider posting course work online as aiding in academic misconduct, and using resources/sites like these would fall under "using unauthorized aids of any kind". If a student is found to have utilized resources like these, they will be reported to the University for disciplinary action. Additionally, use of such resources is also grounds for immediate denial of a student's current Gate and potential for dismissal from the program.

[4] See note regarding charges and convictions and Gate 1 approvals/denials under

F.3. Background Check **and** Fingerprint Results section below.

F.3. Background Check and Fingerprint Results

One of the requirements for approval into the program is the completion of two background checks:

- National Background criminal records check

- Federal Fingerprint check.

Students must submit each results document as part of the Gate 1 application process. Students must also disclose and discuss any criminal charges, convictions, complaints or citations from a professional board, and/or a child/elder/dependent abuse report on the Disclosure Statement Form in Gate 1.

If students' documentation submitted in Gate 1 (results, Disclosure Form, or Autobiographical Statement) reveal criminal charges, convictions, complaints or citations from a professional board, and/or a child/elder/dependent abuse report, students are required to provide a summary of the circumstances of the charge(s) as well as a minimum of two personal/professional recommendations who were aware of the event. Failure to follow these conditions can result in a denial of students' Gate 1 applications. The Department holds the right to deny or defer a student's entry into the program.[5]

Students with charges on their record will be selected for an interview. The Department recognizes that there is a story associated with every charge and this is an opportunity to talk with students directly about it to discuss the potential implications of having charges on record on future field placement and employment options. Students having a record does not automatically disqualify them from being approved into the BSSW program.

F.3.a Disclosure Statement Form

All students must complete a Disclosure Statement Form. The form requests disclosure of charges or convictions of any misdemeanor or felony charge and disclosure of being named as a perpetrator of an indicated or founded report of child/elder/dependent abuse or neglect. Answering in the affirmative will not necessarily prevent students from being approved into the BSSW program or later, from being able to secure a field placement, but may limit the options for field placement as well as impact the ability of students to secure personal liability insurance. Ultimately, field

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[5] The Liberty University BSSW Program trains students to be competent in practice by the time of graduation; however, there is no guarantee that all students will be able to secure placement, employment, or licensure. While the Department works to support students approved to the BSSW Program in acquiring field placements, it is ultimately the agency that must select and approve students for field experiences.

agencies must give approval for students to be placed at their agency, and those agencies may have their own criteria and process for making such determinations.

The form also requests disclosure of any personal or family issues, illnesses or addictions that could impair students' abilities to function well in a social work capacity for a particular agency or with a particular population. The goal of this effort is to partner with the student as they are moving through the program and preparing for future field experiences so as to not compromise the well-being of the students and their potential clients.

If students fail to disclose any of the information requested, it cannot be guaranteed that they will approved into the program at Gate 1 or that the student will be placed in a field setting or complete the field education requirements for the BSSW degree.

Signing the Disclosure Statement Form also indicates that students agree to immediately inform the BSSW Progam team if they are charged with a felony or a misdemeanor later in the program, or if there are any updates that need to be made to the disclosure form.

G. SOWK 365: Gate 2 & the Field Enrollment Process for Jr Field Overiview

SOWK 365 (Gate 2) houses the field proposal process for SOWK 370: Junior Field Experience and Seminar. Gate 2 is a prerequisite for Junior Field and must be successfully completed in the semester before when the student intends to complete Junior Field Experience.

During this course, students identify and propose an agency placement in order to secure a qualifying site for completing their Junior Field Experience in the following semester. At the start of this course, students are given a designated Field Advisor, a member of the BSSW Field Team, to work as their main point of contact for assistance in navigating the field proposal process.

G.1. Gate 2 Prerequisite Requirements

Students are eligible to register for SOWK 365 (Gate 2) once they have met the following criteria:

- Minimum GPA of 2.5.

- Successful completion of SOWK 294 (Gate 1 Approval).

- Successful completion (C or higher) or current enrollment in the prerequisite courses for Gate 2 during the semester students are enrolled in SOWK 365:

  - GLST 220
  - PSYC 255
  - MATH 115 or higher
  - SOWK 300

    o   SOWK 355 (required intensive)

G.2. Field Proposal Process for Junior Field Experience

For a brief overview of what is required in this course, review the [SOWK 365 (Gate 2) Requirements.](#)

For a more detailed overview of what to expect in this course, review Section XI of the [Field Manual.](#)

G.3. Growth Areas and Gate Decisions

Students will receive a Gate 2 Decision by the end of the course. Students who receive Full or Provisional Approval through Gate 2 receive a passing grade for SOWK 365. Students cannot be approved through Gate 2 if they do not successfully complete the field proposal process, securing and finalizing an agency placement for Junior Field Experience. Students who are denied Gate 2 approval receive a grade of Not Pass for the course.

If an **Area of <u>Needed</u> Growth** was specified for the student in their Gate 1 Decision email, they will need to submit the associated documentation in the week 6 assignment in SOWK 365 to show they have been growing in that specific area.

For many students, an **Area of <u>Recommended</u> Growth** was including in the Gate 1 Decision. If an Area of Recommended Growth was included in the student's Gate 1 Decision, no documentation for that area is required for the week 6 assignent in SOWK 365.

For more details on Gate Decisions options and Growth Areas, see Section [D. Gate Decisions](#) and Section [E. Growth Areas](#) above.

H. SOWK 465: Gate 3 & the Field Enrollment Process for Sr Field Overview

SOWK 465 (Gate 3) houses the field proposal process for SOWK 470: Senior Field Experience and Seminar. Gate 3 is a prerequisite for Senior Field and must be successfully completed in the semester before when the student intends to complete Senior Field Experience.

During this course, students identify and propose an agency placement in order to secure a qualifying site for completing their Senior Field Experience in the following semester. At the start of this course, students are given a designated Field Advisor, a member of the BSSW Field Team, to work as their main point of contact for assistance in navigating the field proposal process.

H.1. Gate 3 Prerequisite Requirements

Students are eligible to apply for SOWK 465 (Gate 3) once they have met the following criteria:

- Minimum GPA of 2.5.

- Successful completion of the following Gate courses:

    o SOWK 294 (Gate 1 Approval)

    o SOWK 365 (Gate 2 Approval)

- Successful completion (C or higher) or current enrollment in the prerequisite courses for Gate 3 during the semester students are enrolled in SOWK 465:

    o PSYC 354   o SOWK 370

    o SOWK 325   o SOWK 431

    o SOWK 350

H.2. Field Proposal Process for Senior Field Experience

For a brief overview of what is required in this course, review the SOWK 465 (Gate 3) Requirements

For a more detailed overview of what to expect in this course, review Section XI of the Field Manual.

H.3. Growth Areas and Gate Decisions

Students will receive a Gate 3 Decision by the end of the course. Students who receive Full or Provisional Approval through Gate 3 receive a passing grade for SOWK 465. Students cannot be approved through Gate 3 if they do not successfully complete the Field Enrollment process, securing and finalizing an agency placement for Senior Field Experience. Students who are denied Gate 3 approval receive a grade of Not Pass for the course.

If an **Area of Needed Growth** was specified for the student in their Gate 2 Decision email, they will need to submit the associated documentation in the week 6 assignment in SOWK 465 to show they have been growing in that specific area.

For many students, an **Area of Recommended Growth** was including in the Gate 1 Decision. If an Area of Recommended Growth was included in the student's Gate 1 Decision, no documentation for that area is required for the week 6 assignent in SOWK 365.

For more details on Gate Decisions options and Growth Areas, see Section D. Gate Decisions and Section E. Growth Areas above.

I. SOWK 494: Gate 4 and the Comprehensive Exam Overview

SOWK 494 (Gate 4) includes the comprehensive exam and receiving approval for graduation from the program. It also provides an opportunity for the Department to gather information about student experiences in the BSSW program to use for bettering the program in the future.

For an overview of the assignments required for SOWK 494: Gate 4, please see the [SOWK 494 (Gate 4) Requirements.](#)

I.1. Gate 4 Prerequisite Requirements

Students are eligible to apply for SOWK 494 (Gate 4) once they have met the following criteria:

- Minimum GPA of 2.5.

- Successful completion of the following Gate courses:

  - SOWK 294 (Gate 1 Approval)

  - SOWK 365 (Gate 2 Approval)

  - SOWK 465 (Gate 3 Approval)

- Successful completion (C or higher) or current enrollment in the prerequisite courses for Gate 4 during the semester students are enrolled in SOWK 494:

  - SOWK 410   o   SOWK 470

  - SOWK 450

I.2. Comprehensive Exam

The Comprehensive Exam is a 200-question exam created by the BSSW program to assess each student's understanding and application of the core competencies of the profession. Each student must pass it with a 70% or higher to be able to graduate out of the program. Students have 4 hours to complete this closed-note, closed-book, closed-resource exam. For any students who do not pass the first time, there will be an opportunity to retake the exam later in the semester.

Students must successfully pass the Comprehensive Exam to be eligible for Gate 4 approval. Students who do not successfully pass the exam the second time will not be able to successfully pass SOWK 494 that semester and will need to re-take the course in a future semester.

The Comprehensive Exam is ***not* a licensure exam, although it is designed to mimic the style and content of most licensure exams.

J. Breaking Enrollment Post Gate 1 Approval

If a student breaks enrollment with the university after receiving Gate 1 approval, they will need to follow this process upon their return to be eligible to continue with the BSSW program. Students must first submit the BSSW Program Appeals: Program Re-Instatement & Continuation Form.

After Department review of the student's written appeal, an interview will then be scheduled with the student to discuss the appeal and next steps for continuation eligibility in the program. An approved appeal is necessary to continue forward with the student's next Gate course.

K. Gate Decision Appeal Process

A student may appeal a Gate Decision denial through submitting a BSSW Program Appeals: Gate Decision Appeal Form. All appeals must be received by the Department in this format within 7 days of the date on the student's Gate Decision notification. All appeals are reviewed by Department leadership. An interview will then be conducted with the student to discuss the appeal and next steps for the student's eligibility to progress through the current Gate. An approved appeal is necessary to continue forward with the student's Gate process.