Enhancing Student Involvement in Social Work Program Assessment Strategies
Social Work

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Introduction

This collaboration and active learning was about competency-based assessment strategies and lends to the assessment of implicit /explicit social work curriculum by understanding the full student learning experience.

The student perspective provides the program with meaningful feedback which gives a more accurate reflection of the program's effectiveness, while fostering student/peer/faculty collaboration and communication. This project involved undergraduate students in the development and review of assessment tools to enhance overall program outcomes.

Engaged Student-Centered Assessment Activities Spring 2025

Purpose, Preparation and Planning

Reviewed the Education Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) as developed by CSWE

Co-created social work program survey questions and design to identify strengths and challenges in the implicit and explicit curriculum

Co-created focus group model to engage targeted students in dialogue pertaining to implicit and explicit curricular experiences
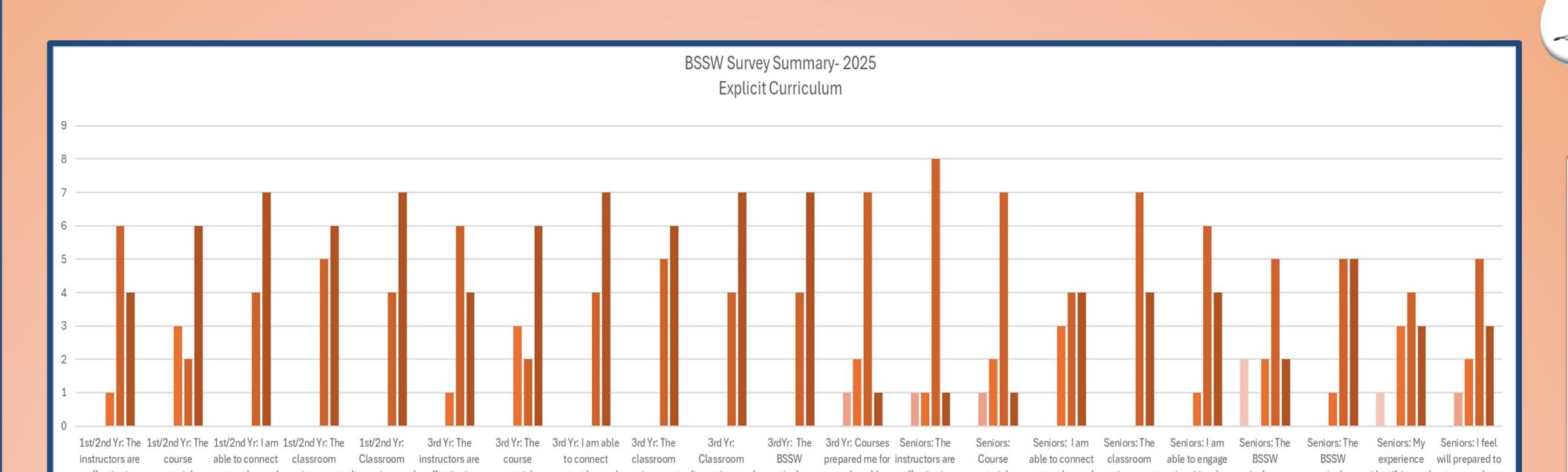
Student Engagement

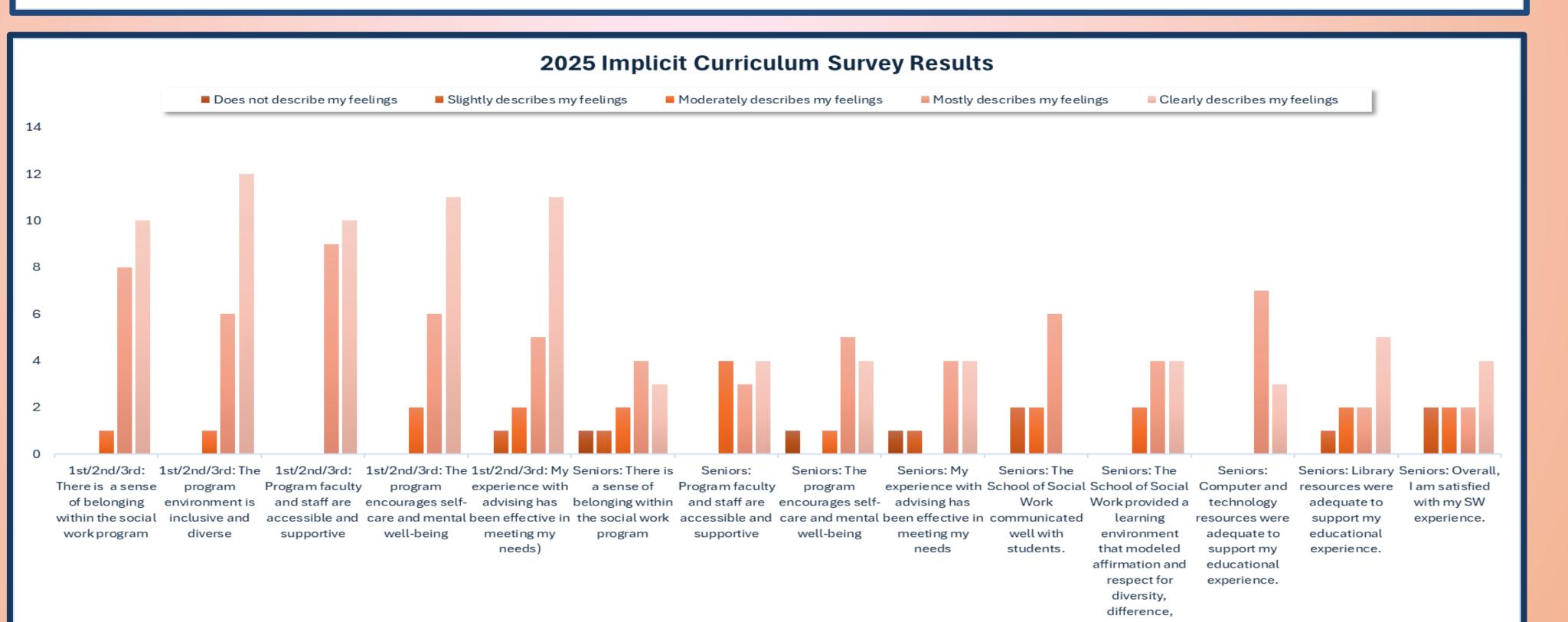Facilitated two separate targeted focus groups to gather student voice

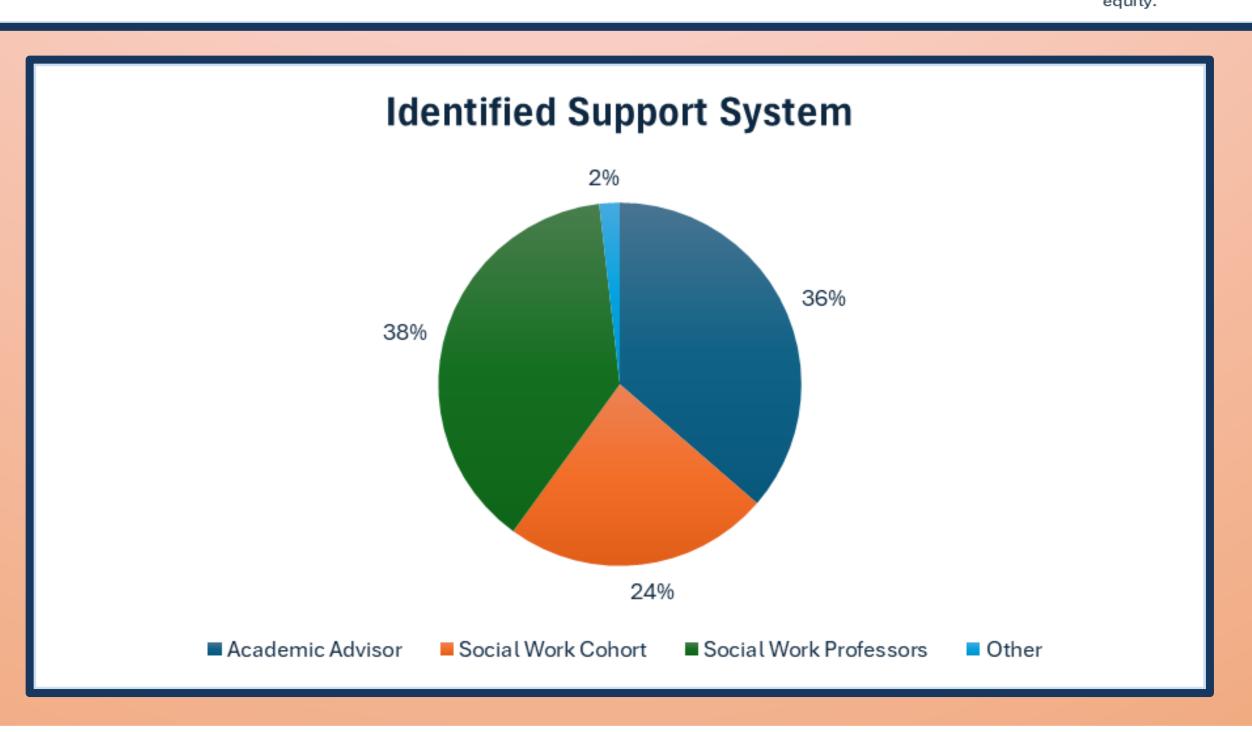Distributed a comprehensive survey tailored for students based on program year

Reviewed the BSSW course comparison document inclusive of their shared competencies, learning outcomes, course imbedded measures, assignments, texts, and readings to identify redundancies and recommend adjustments based on student experience.

"Getting to improve the social work program not only for myself, but for future students is important to me, so having the opportunity to reflect on my education was truly an essential part of this process for me."
– Casey Willis

BSSW Survey Summary- 2025
Explicit Curriculum

2025 Implicit Curriculum Survey Results

Identified Support System

"Through my involvement in the BSSW Program Analysis Project, I gained valuable hands-on experience assessing how the Social Work Department is preparing students for their future endeavors. The data we collected offers insight into which parts of the current curriculum are effective and where improvements can be made to better support all students. This experience deepened my understanding of program evaluation and reinforced my commitment to promoting equitable opportunities for all clients I will serve in my future career."
– Hailey Vanish

2 phases of assessmnet : Product & Process

Focus Group Themes (Recommendations)

More explicit content related to specific types of social work.

Opportunities for cohort bonding community building, and connection

Additional professors thus promoting diversity and better student engagement.

Decrease repetitive curricular content

Increase academic rigor and challenge

Increase communication regarding departmental and policy changes.

Opportunities for paid internships

Use of Results/Next Steps:

➢ **Conduct a faculty review of textbooks/readings-invite student representatives to give feedback before each semester**

➢ **Evaluate student investment in learning via assessment of student assignment and course readings**

➢ **Integrate practice simulations and assignments earlier in the curriculum**

➢ **Incrementally implement advance seminar opportunities or capstone research projects to stretch high-achieving students**

➢ **Develop an integrated student organization to focus on student engagement, events and community building**