Graduate Certificate in
TEMPORARY APPROVAL FOR MICHIGAN SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS

THE LEADERS
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ASSESSMENT
Legal and ethical standards guide social work professionals’ practice in all contexts. Students in this certificate program learn the particular applications of such standards in school settings, where they work to meet children’s individual needs. To assess this complex area of knowledge, faculty selected an exam in SW 8180: Social Work Services in the Schools.

IMPACT
Faculty set a very high benchmark for success on this learning outcome, and found that student performance was somewhat below expectations. In response, the program coordinator plans to meet with the Office for Teaching and Learning to review the curriculum and instruction for areas of improvement and assess the appropriateness of the chosen exam to provide valid evidence of students’ understanding of legal and ethical standards. Part of that assessment will involve an item analysis — performance on each exam question will be analyzed to more precisely identify challenging areas for students and ways to better elicit their understanding.