



Ontario College of
Social Workers and
Social Service Workers

Ordre des travailleurs
sociaux et des techniciens
en travail social de l'Ontario

Helping Build Great Lives

Ready to take the next step?
Join the College!



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Professional

Ethical

Qualified

Accountable



Roadmap to Registration

- What is regulation?
- The Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice
- The Continuing Competence Program (CCP)
- Registration Process
- Value of membership



What is regulation?



How Regulation happens

- Recognition that there is a 'risk of harm'
- Support for regulation within the profession(s)
- Government delegates to a profession(s) the power to regulate their peers



Regulation of SW and SSW in Ontario

- *Social Work and Social Service Work Act, 1998* (fully proclaimed 2000)
- Accountable to the Ministry of Community and Social Services
- Council → Registrar → Staff



The College Mandate: Public Protection

- To protect the public interest from unqualified, incompetent or unfit practitioners
- Title protection and holding out provisions
- Public register



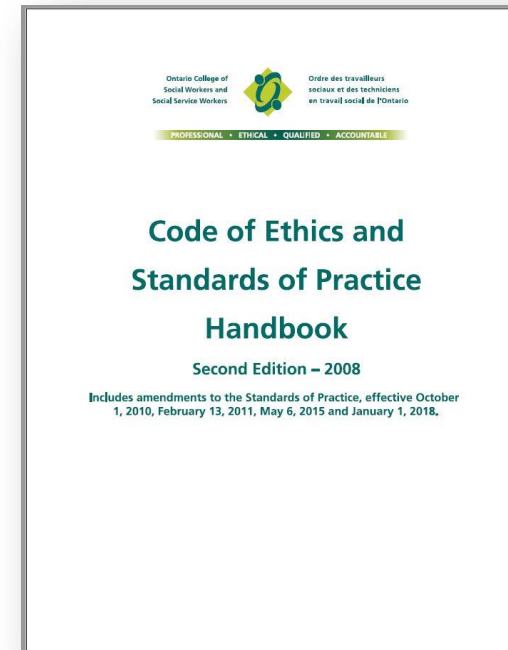
Role of the College

- Sets registration requirements and protects the title for those with specialized academic qualifications who meet specific standards.
- Sets minimum professional standards: Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice.
- Supports ongoing learning: continuing competence and professional development.
- Provides oversight and maintains rigorous complaints and discipline processes.



The Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice

- *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice Handbook, 2nd Edition, 2008*
- 8 principles to guide practice and conduct which set out minimum standards for all members





Standards of Practice

- I. Relationship with Clients
- II. Competence and Integrity
- III. Responsibility to Clients
- IV. The Social Work and Social Service Work Record
- V. Confidentiality
- VI. Fees
- VII. Advertising
- VIII. Sexual Misconduct



Continuing Competence Program (CCP)

- Adult education model
- Mandatory for College members to complete each year
- Promotes quality assurance and encourages members to enhance their practice in an ongoing way



Continuing Competence Program (CCP)

Four steps to complete the CCP:

1. Review Standards of Practice and other required documents
2. Complete Self Assessment Tool
3. Complete Professional Development Plan and carry out learning activities
4. Complete Declaration of Participation – part of annual renewal process



Oversight and Discipline

- As the regulatory body for SW and SSW, the College has due processes in place to keep unfit, incompetent and unqualified individuals out of the profession.
- All Ontarians have a right to expect that their SW or SSW will be professional, ethical, qualified and accountable.



To review:

- The College's mandate is to protect the public
- The College fulfills this mandate by:
 - Setting registration requirements
 - Maintaining Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice
 - Supporting members in ongoing learning
 - Providing oversight and discipline



Registration Process

Visit: www.ocswssw.org/registration-section/information-for-all-applicants/

- Have transcript sent directly to College
- Submit Application Form with fees
- Allow 4-6 weeks for processing





New Graduate Fee

- New graduates are a priority
 - You must apply for registration no later than December 31 of the year in which you graduate
 - You are then eligible for the new graduate fee for the two subsequent years



SSW Equivalency

- Persons with a non-SSW diploma may apply through the equivalency stream
 - Two-year college of applied arts and technology (CAAT) diploma or equivalent
 - Courses from transcripts must meet 3 content areas
 - Work experience that includes 650 hours of supervision
 - <https://www.ocswssw.org/registration-section/no-social-service-work-diploma/>



SW Equivalency

- Persons with a non-SW degree may apply through the equivalency stream
 - Four-year undergraduate degree
 - Courses from transcripts must meet 12 content areas
 - Work experience including supervision of 700 hours of practice by a social worker
 - <https://www.ocswssw.org/registration-section/no-social-work-degree/>



Membership Means:

Professional

- ✓ Community of peers dedicated to professional excellence
- ✓ Professional development, Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice

Qualified

- ✓ Specialized training
- ✓ Professional development (CCP, regional forums, Annual Conference)

Ethical

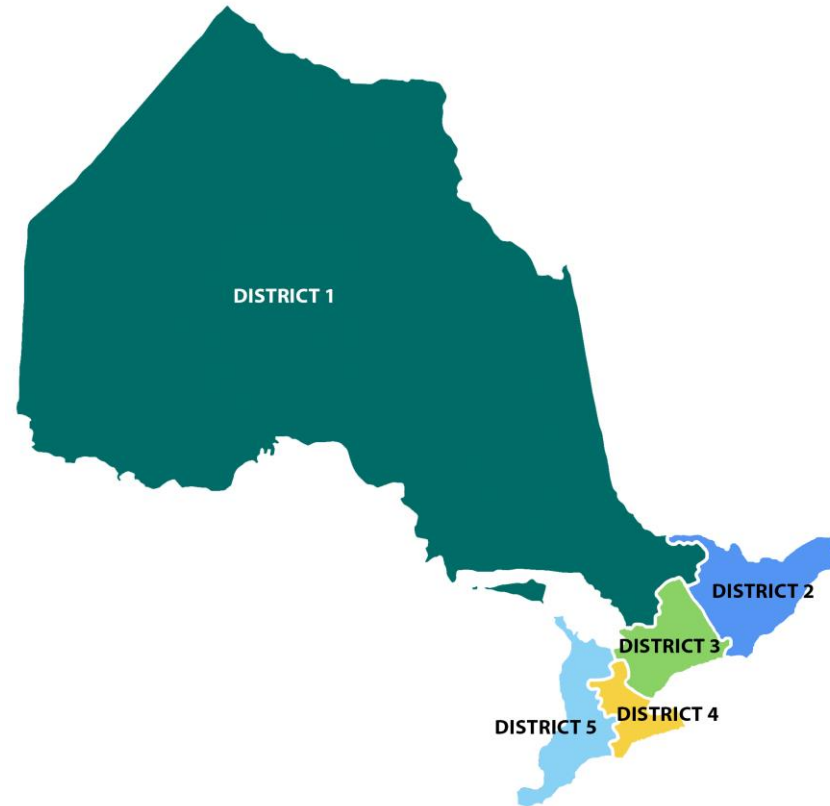
- ✓ Follow a Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice

Accountable

- ✓ To clients, employers and the public via membership
- ✓ Transparent oversight, discipline process
- ✓ Mandated by the government of Ontario



Membership





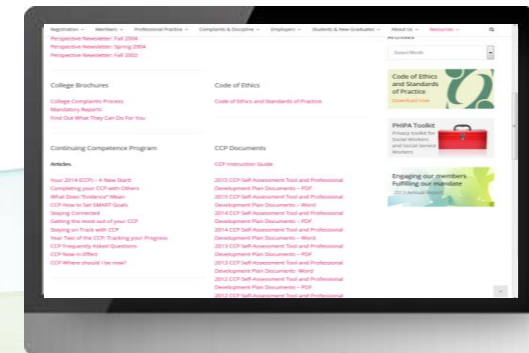
Why should I join?

- Next step in becoming a professional
- Use the protected titles
- “Hold yourself out” as a “social worker” or “social service worker”
- Consult with the Professional Practice Department when facing practice dilemmas
- Access other College resources



College Resources

- *The Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice Handbook, 2nd Edition*
- Professional Practice Presentations
- Professional Practice consultations
- Privacy toolkit and useful articles
- Practice Guidelines
- Practice Notes
- College website
- *Perspective* newsletter
- Annual Meeting and Education Day (AMED) and educational forums





Social Worker and Social Service Worker Professional Development

- Funding for College members from the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS)
- Initiative provides access to funding for professional development for College members in Ontario
- Can be used to complete CCP learning activities
- For more information visit: www.swsswpdf.org



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Let's connect on [social media](#)