



香港學術及職業資歷評審局
Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of
Academic & Vocational Qualifications

SUMMARY ACCREDITATION REPORT

YMCA COLLEGE OF CAREERS

LEARNING PROGRAMME RE-ACCREDITATION

HIGHER DIPLOMA IN SOCIAL WORK

JUNE 2026

1. TERMS OF REFERENCE

1.1 Based on the Service Agreement (No.: VA2085), the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ), in the capacity of the Accreditation Authority as provided for under the Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Ordinance (Cap 592) (AAVQO), was commissioned by YMCA College of Careers (“Operator”) to conduct a Learning Programme Re-accreditation (re-LPA) Exercise with the following Terms of Reference:

- (a) To conduct an accreditation test as provided for in AAVQO to determine whether the “Higher Diploma in Social Work” programme of the Operator meets the stated objectives and Hong Kong Qualifications Framework (HKQF, or in short QF) Level 4 standard and can continue to be offered as an accredited programme; and
- (b) To issue to the Operator an accreditation report setting out the results of the determination in relation to (a) by HKCAAVQ.

1.2 The accreditation exercise was conducted according to the relevant accreditation guidelines referred to in the Service Agreement. The Education Bureau’s *“Updated Revised Common Descriptors for Associate Degree and Higher Diploma Programmes (Effective since the 2024/25 academic year)”* was also a guiding document used by the Panel and the Operator in conducting this exercise for the Higher Diploma programme. A site visit took place on 27 April 2026.

2. HKCAAVQ’S DETERMINATION

Learning Programme Re-accreditation

2.1 HKCAAVQ has determined that, subject to the compliance with all restrictions set out in 2.4, the Higher Diploma in Social Work meets the stated objectives and QF standard at Level 4, and can be offered as an accredited programme with a validity period from 1 September 2026 to 31 December 2027.

2.2 Validity Period

2.2.1 The validity period will commence on the date specified below.

- 2.3 The determinations on the Learning Programme Re-accreditation are specified as follows:

Name of Operator(s)	YMCA College of Careers 青年會專業書院
Name of Award Granting Body	YMCA College of Careers 青年會專業書院
Title of Learning Programme	Higher Diploma in Social Work 社會工作高級文憑
Title of Qualification(s) (Exit Award(s))	Higher Diploma in Social Work 社會工作高級文憑
Primary Area of Study and Training	Social Sciences
Sub-area (Primary Area of Study and Training)	Social Services
Other Area of Study and Training	Not applicable
Sub-area (Other Area of Study and Training)	Not applicable
Industry	Not applicable
Branch	Not applicable
QF Level	Level 4
QF Credits	267
Mode(s) of Delivery and Programme Length	Full-time, 2 years Part-time, 3 years 2,670 notional learning hours (including 1,695 contact hours)
Intermediate Exit Award(s)	Not applicable
Validity Period	1 September 2026 – 31 December 2027
Number of Enrolment(s)	<u>Full-time</u> One enrolment per year <u>Part-time</u> One enrolment per year

Maximum Number of New Students	<u>Full-time</u> Maximum of 30 learners per year Maximum of 30 learners per class <u>Part-time</u> Maximum of 30 learners per year Maximum of 30 learners per class
Specification of Competency Standards-based Programme	☐ Yes ☒ No
Specification of Generic Competencies-based Programme	☐ Yes ☒ No
Vocational Qualifications Pathway Programme	☐ Yes ☒ No
Notes to be indicated on the QR	This programme includes Fieldwork Placement for 72 QF credits to be conducted in 720 hours. 此課程包括 720 小時的實習，佔 72 資歷學分。
Address of Teaching/ Training Venue(s)	23 Waterloo Road, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon 九龍油麻地窩打老道 23 號

2.4 Restriction(s)

The Operator is expected to fulfill and comply with all restriction(s) during the validity period as stipulated in the accreditation report.

Restriction(s)	Date of Fulfilment
The Operator should ensure that the programme remains recognised by the Social Workers Registration Board as a qualification for social worker registration throughout the validity period. The Operator should also adhere to and comply with the Post-Secondary Colleges (Amendment) Bill (Cap. 320) for offering sub-degree programmes.	On-going

2.5 **Recommendation(s)**

HKCAAVQ offers the following recommendation(s) for continuous improvement.

Recommendation(s)
<u>Recommendation 1</u> The Operator should regularly review and update the reading lists to ensure that the recommended textbooks and references remain current.
<u>Recommendation 2</u> The Operator should prepare a bilingual glossary of key terms in social work practice to facilitate students' learning.
<u>Recommendation 3</u> The Operator should compile a list of Do's and Don'ts and share good practices to provide students with additional guidance and references for their Fieldwork Placements.
<u>Recommendation 4</u> The Operator should arrange private rooms with proper counselling settings to facilitate individual consultations conducted by teaching staff and students in the teaching venue.
<u>Recommendation 5</u> The Operator should invite relevant non-profit organisations to provide complimentary copies of their new publications for inclusion in the library.
<u>Recommendation 6</u> The Operator should set up a Staff-Student Consultative Committee for student representatives to collect and reflect the views of their peers during the committee meeting for timely follow up.

2.6 HKCAAVQ will subsequently satisfy itself whether the Operator remains competent to achieve the relevant objectives and the Programme continues to meet the standard to achieve the relevant objectives as claimed by the Operator by reference to, amongst other things, the Operator's fulfilment of any conditions and compliance with any restrictions stipulated in this Accreditation Report. For the

avoidance of doubt, maintenance of accreditation status is subject to fulfilment of any condition and compliance with any restriction stipulated in this Accreditation Report. During the validity period, HKCAAVQ may request the Operator to provide evidence, such as admission related information, to demonstrate that the Operator and the Programme continue to comply with the determinations and meet the relevant accreditation standards.

3. INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 YMCA College of Careers is a non-profit making school formed in 1995 and sponsored by the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong in providing various types of learning programmes to the Hong Kong community, especially young people.

4. PROGRAMME DETAILS

The following is the programme information provided by the Operator.

4.1 Programme Objectives

- The programme is a comprehensive training that prepares students to become competent social workers. The programme emphasizes developing students' proper attitude, knowledge and skills for their future studies and employment in social work.
- Graduates are expected to uphold the value and carry the professional attitude of being a social worker and to practice in the field competently and professionally. They can be reflective in social work practices and adaptive in the rapidly changing social environment. Last but not least, they can assume their roles and duties as qualified frontline social workers in social welfare and related fields in Hong Kong.

4.2 Programme Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the programme, learners should be able to:

1. Acquire concepts and theoretical based knowledge in social work for effective assessment, planning, implementation, and intervention with individuals and families, groups, organizations and communities;
2. Demonstrate professional values and attitudes with the social work profession and its prescribed ethical standards and principles;
3. Perform various tasks/roles of social workers as deemed desirable in a rapidly changing social context;
4. Contribute to the development of societies through appraising the cultural diversity and socio-economics factors; and

5. Use a wide range of routine and effective communication skills in various social work contexts.

4.3 Programme Structure

Full-time mode

Module	QF Credit
Year 1 Semester 1	267
HGS101 Practical English for Social Workers	
HGS103 Introduction to Psychology	
HGS106 Personal Growth and Transformation	
HSW200 Introduction to Social Work	
HSW207 Skills Laboratory (Part I)	
HSW204 Social Work Values and Ethics	
HSW205 Social Work Theory and Practice	
Year 1 Semester 2	
HSW202 Human Behaviour and Social Environment	
HSW207 Skills Laboratory (Part II)	
HSW208 First Placement Preparatory Workshop	
HGS102 Introduction to Sociology	
HSW206 Working with Individuals and Families	
HSW209 Working with Groups and Communities	
HSW211 Programme, Planning, Management and Evaluation	
Year 1 Semester 3	
HSW212 First Fieldwork Placement (Full-time Summer Block)	
Year 2 Semester 1	
HGS100 Practical Chinese for Social Workers	
HSW201 Social Welfare and Social Policies in Hong Kong	
HSW216 Working with Young People	
HSW218 Mental Health	
HSW210 Second Placement Preparatory Workshop	
TWO Elective Modules from the following: 1. HSW214 Working with Older Adults 2. HSW215 Working with the Disadvantaged Groups 3. HSW217 Ethnic Minorities and Social Inclusion	
Year 2 Semester 2	
HGS104 Law and Social Work	
HGS105 Introduction to Research Method	
HSW213 Second Fieldwork Placement (Full-time Concurrent)	
Total	267

Part-time mode

Module	QF Credit
Year 1 Semester 1	267
HSW200 Introduction to Social Work	
HGS106 Personal Growth and Transformation	
HGS101 Practical English for Social Workers	
Year 1 Semester 2	
HGS103 Introduction to Psychology	
HSW205 Social Work Theory and Practice	
HSW204 Social Work Values and Ethics	
Year 1 Semester 3	
HSW207 Skills Laboratory (Part I)	
HSW206 Working with Individuals and Families	
HSW209 Working with Groups and Communities	
Year 2 Semester 1	
HSW211 Programme, Planning, Management and Evaluation	
HSW202 Human Behaviour and Social Environment	
HGS102 Introduction to Sociology	
HSW207 Skills Laboratory (Part II)	
Year 2 Semester 2	
HSW216 Working with Young People	
HSW201 Social Welfare and Social Policies in Hong Kong	
HGS100 Practical Chinese for Social Workers	
HSW208 First Placement Preparatory Workshop	
Year 2 Semester 3	
HSW218 Mental Health	
HSW212 First Fieldwork Placement (Part-time Concurrent) (Part 1)	
Year 3 Semester 1	
HGS104 Law and Social Work	
HSW212 First Fieldwork Placement (Part-time Concurrent) (Part 2)	
Year 3 Semester 2	
HGS105 Introduction to Research Method	
TWO Elective Modules from the following: 1. HSW214 Working with Older Adults 2. HSW215 Working with the Disadvantaged Groups 3. HSW217 Ethnic Minorities and Social Inclusion	
HSW210 Second Placement Preparatory Workshop	
Year 3 Semester 3	
HSW213 Second Fieldwork Placement (Part-time Summer Block)	
Total	267

4.4 Graduation Requirements

1. Obtain an overall GPA 2.0 or above; and
2. Achieve a total of 267 QF credits required by the programme; and
3. Achieve at least 80% attendance in each module.

4.5 Admission Requirements

- For applicants with Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination:
 - Obtain Level 2 or above in any FIVE Core subjects / Elective subjects (including Chinese Language and English Language)*; AND
 - Pass an admission interview.
- For applicants with other equivalent entry qualification(s):
 - Obtain (i) qualification in the relevant discipline at QF Level 3 with a total learning size of normally 150 QF credits; and (ii) learning contents covering Chinese and English languages; or
 - Satisfactory completion of Diploma of Applied Education (or formerly Diploma Yi Jin); or
 - Aged 21 or above will be considered on an individual basis**;
 - AND
 - Pass an admission interview.

*Applicants possessing “Attained”, “Attained with Distinction (I)” and “Attained with Distinction (II)” in Applied Learning (ApL) subjects are deemed to have attained “Level 2”, “Level 3” and “Level 4” respectively in the application. A maximum of two ApL subjects can be counted for admission purpose.

**Mature applicants must be over the age of 21 by 1 September of the year of admission and be able to demonstrate sufficient motivation, knowledge and potential to indicate a high probability of completing the programme.

5. IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THIS ACCREDITATION REPORT

5.1 Variation and withdrawal of this Accreditation Report

- 5.1.1 This Accreditation Report is issued pursuant to section 5 of the AAVQO, and contains HKCAAVQ's substantive determination regarding the accreditation, including the validity period as well as any conditions and restrictions subject to which the determination is to have effect.

- 5.1.2 HKCAAVQ may subsequently decide to vary or withdraw this Accreditation Report if it is satisfied that any of the grounds set out in section 5 (2) of the AAVQO apply. This includes where HKCAAVQ is satisfied that the Operator is no longer competent to achieve the relevant objectives and/or the Programme no longer meets the standard to achieve the relevant objectives as claimed by the Operator (whether by reference to the Operator's failure to fulfil any conditions and/or comply with any restrictions stipulated in this Accreditation Report or otherwise) or where at any time during the validity period there has/have been substantial change(s) introduced by the Operator after HKCAAVQ has issued the accreditation report(s) to the Operator and which has/have not been approved by HKCAAVQ. Please refer to the '*Guidance Notes on Substantial Change to Accreditation Status*' in seeking approval for proposed changes. These Guidance Notes can be downloaded from the HKCAAVQ website.
- 5.1.3 If HKCAAVQ decides to vary or withdraw this Accreditation Report, it will give the Operator notice of such variation or withdrawal pursuant to section 5(4) of the AAVQO.
- 5.1.4 The accreditation status of the Operator and/or Programme will lapse immediately upon the expiry of the validity period or upon the issuance of a notice of withdrawal of this Accreditation Report.

5.2 Appeals

- 5.2.1 If the Operator is aggrieved by the determination made in this Accreditation Report, then pursuant to Part 3 of the AAVQO the Operator has a right of appeal to the Appeal Board. Any appeal must be lodged within 30 days of the receipt of this Accreditation Report.
- 5.2.2 If the Operator is aggrieved by a decision to vary or withdraw this Accreditation Report, then pursuant to Part 3 of the AAVQO the Operator has a right of appeal to the Appeal Board. Any appeal must be lodged within 30 days of the receipt of the Notice of Variation or Withdrawal.
- 5.2.3 The Operator should be aware that a notice of variation or withdrawal of this Accreditation Report is not itself an accreditation report and the right to appeal against HKCAAVQ's substantive determination regarding accreditation arises only from this Accreditation Report.
- 5.2.4 Please refer to Cap 592A (www.elegislation.gov.hk) for the appeal rules. Details of the appeal procedure are contained in section 13 of

the AAVQO and can be accessed from the QF website at: www.hkqf.gov.hk.

5.3 Qualifications Register

- 5.3.1 Qualifications accredited by HKCAAVQ are eligible for entry into the QR at www.hkqr.gov.hk for recognition under the QF. The Operator should apply separately to have their quality-assured qualifications entered into the QR.
- 5.3.2 Only learners who commence the study of the named accredited learning programme during the validity period and who have graduated with the named qualification listed in the QR will be considered to have acquired a qualification recognised under the QF.

Ref: VA05/02/23b,24b,29a

