

## **Social Work Licensure Requirements by State**

## **Alabama**

Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners  
P.O. Box 301620  
Montgomery, AL 36130-1620

Phone: 334) 242-5860

### **Alabama Requirements**

#### **850-X-6-.01 Eligibility for Examinations.**

To be eligible to sit for the examination for licensure the applicant must provide evidence satisfactory to the Board that the applicant possesses the educational qualifications and qualifying experience outlined in the Code of Ala. 1975, §34-30-22 (1991).

The applicant must:

- be at least nineteen years old;
- subscribe to the professional code of ethics approved and adopted by the Board;
- meet the following additional requirements:
  - Bachelor Social Worker: have a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university including completion of a social work program approved or accredited or in candidacy by the Council on Social Work Education.
  - Master Social Worker: have a master of social work or a doctor of social work from a college or university approved or accredited or in candidacy by the Council on Social Work Education.
  - Independent Clinical Social Worker:
    - have a master of social work or a doctor of social work from a college or university approved or accredited or in candidacy by the Council on Social Work Education and holds a current LMSW; and
    - have at least two years of post-master or post-doctorate experience in the practice of social work under the supervision of a licensed independent clinical social worker.

Please visit <http://socialwork.alabama.gov/> for more information.

## Alaska

Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development  
Division of Corporations, Business & Professional Licensing  
550 W 7<sup>th</sup> AVE, STE 1500  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3567

Phone: (907) 465-2551

Contact: [SocialWorkExaminers@Alaska.Gov](mailto:SocialWorkExaminers@Alaska.Gov)

### Alaska Requirements

#### **Sec. 08.95.110. License requirements.**

The board shall issue a license to practice clinical social work to a person who:

- has received a master's degree or a doctoral degree in social work from a college or university, approved by the board;
- has completed, within the 10 years before application for licensure and under the supervision of a licensed social worker, licensed psychologist or licensed psychiatrist either
  - a minimum of two years of continuous full-time employment in postgraduate clinical social work; or
  - a minimum of 3,000 hours of less than full-time employment in a period of not less than two years in postgraduate social work
- is of good moral character;
- is in good professional standing and is fit to practice social work as determined by the board; (5) has provided three professional references that are acceptable to the board, including, if the applicant
  - was previously employed to practice social work, one reference from a person who was the applicant's employer while practicing social work unless the applicant demonstrates to the satisfaction of the board that the applicant is unable to satisfy the requirement of this subparagraph through no fault of the applicant; and
  - is currently employed to practice social work, a reference from the applicant's current employer;
- has satisfactorily completed the examination given by the board for social worker licensing; and
- has paid required fees.

The board shall issue a license authorizing use of the title, "master social worker" to a person who:

- satisfies the requirements of (a)(1), (3) - (5), and (7) of this section; and
- has satisfactorily completed the examination given by the board for master social worker licensing.

The board shall issue a license authorizing use of the title, “baccalaureate social worker” to a person who:

- satisfies the requirements of (a)(3) - (5) and (7) of this section;
- has received a bachelor’s degree in social work from a college or university approved by the board; and
- has satisfactorily completed the examination given by the board for baccalaureate social worker licensing.

Please visit <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/> for more information.

## **Arizona**

Board of Behavioral Health Examiners  
1740 West Adams Street. #3600  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Phone: (602) 542-1882

Contact: [information@azbbhe.us](mailto:information@azbbhe.us)

### **Arizona Requirements**

#### **32-3291. Licensed baccalaureate social worker; licensure; qualifications; supervision**

- A person who wishes to be licensed by the board to engage in the practice of social work as a licensed baccalaureate social worker shall:
  - Furnish documentation as prescribed by the board by rule that the person has earned a baccalaureate degree in social work from a regionally accredited college or university in a program accredited by the council on social work education or a degree from a foreign school based on a program of study that the board determines is substantially equivalent.
  - Pass an examination approved by the board.
- A licensed baccalaureate social worker shall only engage in clinical practice under direct supervision as prescribed by the board.

#### **32-3292. Licensed master social worker; licensure; qualifications; supervision**

- A person who wishes to be licensed by the board to engage in the practice of social work as a licensed master social worker shall:
  - Furnish documentation satisfactory to the board that the person has earned a master's or higher degree in social work from a regionally accredited college or university in a program accredited by the council on social work education or a degree from a foreign school based on a program of study that the board determines is substantially equivalent.
  - Pass an examination approved by the board.
- A licensed master social worker shall only engage in clinical practice under direct supervision as prescribed by the board

#### **32-3293. Licensed clinical social worker; licensure; qualifications**

- A person who wishes to be licensed by the board to engage in the practice of social work as a licensed clinical social worker shall: 1. Furnish documentation as prescribed by the board by rule that the person has:
  - Earned a master's or higher degree in social work from a regionally accredited college or university in a program accredited by the council on social work education or a degree from a foreign school based on a program of study that the board determines is substantially equivalent.
  - Received at least three thousand two hundred hours of post-master's degree experience in not less than twenty-four months under supervision that meets the

requirements prescribed by the board by rule. The three thousand two hundred hours must include at least one thousand six hundred hours of direct client contact, not more than one thousand six hundred hours of indirect client service and at least one hundred hours of clinical supervision as prescribed by the board by rule. For the direct client contact hours, not more than four hundred hours may be in psychoeducation. The board by rule may prescribe the number of hours required for functions related to direct client contact and indirect client service.

- 2. Pass an examination approved by the board.

Please visit <https://www.azbbhe.us/pdfs/> for more information.

## Arkansas

Social Work Licensing Board  
Executive Building, Suite 518  
2020 West Third  
Little Rock, AR 72205

Phone: (501) 372-5071  
Contact: [awlb@arkansas.gov](mailto:awlb@arkansas.gov)

### Arkansas Requirements

#### **17-103-306. Qualifications — Issuance**

The Arkansas Social Work Licensing Board shall issue a *Licensed Social Worker* license to an applicant who qualifies as follows:

- Has a baccalaureate degree in a social work program from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or the Canadian Association for Social Work Education, or has received before June 17, 1986, a baccalaureate degree in a social work program from an accredited educational institution;
- Has passed an examination approved by the board for this purpose and level of practice;
- Has applied for a criminal background check and meets the qualifications for issuance of a license under § 17-103-307;
- Has good moral character;
- Is physically and mentally competent to provide social work services with reasonable skill and safety;
- Is not affected by a mental or physical disease or condition that would impair the applicant's competency to provide social work services;
- Has not pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to or been found guilty of a felony, any crime involving moral turpitude, or criminal offense involving violence, dishonesty, fraud, deceit, breach of client trust, or abuse of the vulnerable;
- Does not use drugs or alcohol to an extent that the use affects the applicant's professional competency; and
- Has not engaged in fraud or deceit in making the application.

The board shall issue a *Licensed Master Social Worker* license to an applicant who qualifies as follows:

- Has a master's degree in social work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or the Canadian Association for Social Work Education, or has received before June 17, 1986, a master's degree in a social work program from an accredited educational institution;
- Has passed an examination approved by the board for this purpose and level of practice;
- Has applied for a criminal background check and meets the qualifications for issuance of a license under § 17-103-307;

- Has good moral character;
- Is physically and mentally competent to provide social work services with reasonable skill and safety;
- Is not afflicted by a mental or physical disease or condition that would impair the applicant's competency to provide social work services;
- Has not pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to or been found guilty of a felony, any crime involving moral turpitude, or criminal offense involving violence, dishonesty, fraud, deceit, breach of client trust, or abuse of the vulnerable;
- Does not use drugs or alcohol to an extent that the use affects the applicant's professional competency; and
- Has not engaged in fraud or deceit in making the application

The board shall issue a license as a *Licensed Certified Social Worker* license to an applicant who qualifies as follows:

- Has a master's degree in social work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or the Canadian Association for Social Work Education, or has received before June 17, 1986, a master's degree in a social work program from an accredited educational institution;
- Has at least twenty-four (24) months of supervised social work experience under a Licensed Certified Social Worker.
  - The supervised social work experience required under subdivision (c)(1)(B)(i) of this section shall include at least four thousand (4,000) hours in a social work position under the supervision of a Licensed Certified Social Worker or a social worker whom the board determines to have qualifications equivalent to those required of a Licensed Certified Social Worker;
- Has passed an examination approved by the board for this purpose and level of practice;
- Has applied for a criminal background check and meets the qualifications for issuance of a license under § 17-103-307;
- Has good moral character;
- Is physically and mentally competent to provide social work services with reasonable skill and safety;
- Is not affected by a mental or physical disease or condition that would impair the applicant's competency to provide social work services;
- Has not pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to or been found guilty of a felony, any crime involving moral turpitude, or criminal offense involving violence, dishonesty, fraud, deceit, breach of client trust, or abuse of the vulnerable;
- Does not use drugs or alcohol to an extent that the use affects the applicant's professional competency; and
- Has not engaged in fraud or deceit in making the application.

Please visit <https://www.arkansas.gov/swlb/pdfs/ACT1170of2015.pdf> for more information.

## **California**

Board of Behavioral Sciences  
1625 N market Blvd S-200  
Sacramento, CA 95834

Phone: (916) 574-7830

### **California Requirements**

#### **License Requirements**

- Master's degree in Social Work from an accredited school of social work
  - Out-of-State applicants must complete 18-hour course on California Law & Professional Ethics
- Applicants are required to report all misdemeanor and felony convictions with a few minor exceptions
  - Applicants must disclose convictions, even if previously reported to the Board
  - Failure to report is considered falsification of an application, and is grounds for denial
  - Evaluation of the applicant's criminal history is part of the application process
- Take and Pass the California Law & Ethics Exam
  - Exam must be TAKEN annually to renew ASW Registration
  - Exam must be PASSED to receive or renew a subsequent ASW Registration
- Accrue Supervised Experience
  - All hours in California must be gained while registered
  - 3,200 total supervised hours, over 104 weeks (minimum)
  - Hours must be submitted with the Licensure and Examination Packet
- Take and Pass the ASWB Clinical Exam

Applicants must request license after passing Clinical Exam.

Please visit <https://www.bbs.ca.gov/applicants/lcsw.html> for more information.

## **Colorado**

State Board of Social Work Examiners  
1560 Broadway, Suite 1350  
Denver, CO 80202

Phone: (303) 894-7800

Contact: [dora\\_mentalhealthboard@state.co.us](mailto:dora_mentalhealthboard@state.co.us)

### **Colorado Requirements**

#### **Licensed Social Worker (LSW)**

You have just graduated with your MSW from a CSWE-approved program and/or still need to complete required post-degree supervised experience. LSW licensure requires:

- Completion and submission of application packet and application processing fee;
- Passage of ASWB Masters (Intermediate), Advanced or Clinical examination (if you take the Advanced or Clinical level exam, it will transfer to LCSW);
- Completion of a Healthcare Professions Profile (HPPP); and
- Passage of the Colorado Mental Health Professions online Jurisprudence Examination.

#### **Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)**

You have completed all post-degree supervised experience and wish to be licensed at a clinical, independent level. LCSW licensure requires:

- Completion and submission of application packet and application processing fee;
- Passage of ASWB Advanced or Clinical examination;
- Completion and documentation of 3,360 hours of experience over a minimum of 24 months; to include 96 hours of supervision, 48 hours of which must be face-to-face individual supervision, distributed evenly over 24 months;
- Completion of a Healthcare Professions Profile (HPPP); and
- Passage of the current Colorado Mental Health Professions online Jurisprudence Examination.

Please visit [https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dora/Social\\_Work\\_Applications](https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dora/Social_Work_Applications) for more information.

## **Connecticut**

Connecticut Department of Public Health  
Social Work Licensure  
410 capitol Ave, MS #12 APP  
P.O. Box 340308  
Hartford, CT 06134

Phone: (860) 509-7603

Contact: [dph.counselorsteam@ct.gov](mailto:dph.counselorsteam@ct.gov)

### **Connecticut Requirements**

#### **LCSW Licensing Requirements**

- Hold a master's or doctorate degree from a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE);
- Successfully completed three thousand (3000) hours of post-master's social work experience including not less than one hundred (100) hours of work experience under professional supervision by a licensed clinical or certified independent social worker;
- Successfully completed the Clinical Level Examination of the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB).

#### **Master's Level Social Work Licensing Requirements**

In order to qualify for examination, an applicant must meet the eligibility requirements outlined below:

- Hold a master's degree from a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or, if educated outside the United States or its territories, have completed an educational program deemed equivalent by the council; and
- Pass the Association of Social Work Boards' (ASWB) master's level examination.

Please visit <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Practitioner-Licensing> for more information.

## Delaware

Board of Clinical Social Work Examiners  
Cannon Building, Suite 203  
861 Silver Lake Blvd.  
Dover, DE 19904

Phone: (302) 744-4500

Contact: [customerservice.dpr@state.de.us](mailto:customerservice.dpr@state.de.us)

### Delaware Requirements

- Submit completed, signed and notarized [Application for Licensure as a Clinical Social Worker](#).
  - The application must clearly show the number of your *post-MSW degree clinical social work* hours.
  - Your clinical experience must consist of at least 3,200 hours.
- Enclose the non-refundable [processing fee](#) by check or money order payable to the “State of Delaware.”
- Complete the *Criminal History Record Check Authorization* to request State of Delaware and Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal background checks. Follow the instructions on the form to arrange to be fingerprinted.
- Arrange for your supervisor to complete and sign the *Supervisory Reference Form* included with the application. Your supervisor must send it *directly* to the Board office.
  - The form must document at least 1,600 hours under professional supervision acceptable to the Board.
  - The supervisor(s) must be a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW), master’s level degree social worker (MSW), licensed psychologist, or a licensed psychiatrist.
- If no LCSW is (or was) available to supervise you, complete and submit a *Documentation of Attempts to Secure LCSW Supervision* form, included with the application (Section 4.1.1 of the Board’s [Rules and Regulations](#)).
- If you have ever held a social work license in another jurisdiction (state, U.S. territory or D.C.), arrange for the Board office to receive verification of licensure from *each* jurisdiction where you have held a license, sent *directly* from the jurisdiction to the Board office.
- Arrange for your college or university to send an official transcript of your completed Masters degree *directly* to the Board office. The college or university must be accredited by the Council on Social Work Education ([www.cswe.org](http://www.cswe.org)).
- If you have already passed the ASWB exam, arrange for the Board office to receive a certified score report, sent directly from ASWB to the Board office. To request the score report, see [Score Transfer](#) on the ASWB web site.

- If you have *not* passed the ASWB examination, the Board office will notify you when you are approved to take the exam.

Please visit <https://dpr.delaware.gov/boards/socialworkers/newlicense/> for more information.

## **Florida**

Department of Health  
Board of Mental Health Professions  
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin C-08  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3258

Phone: (850) 488-0595

### **Florida Requirements**

To be licensed as a Clinical Social Worker in Florida you must have:

- **OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT:** A master's degree in social work from a Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accredited school of social work. Ensure your program is accredited by visiting <https://cswe.org>
- **COURSEWORK:** Completed 24 semester hours or 32 quarter hours in theory of human behavior and practice methods as courses in clinically oriented services, including a minimum of one course in psychopathology.
- **PRACTICUM:** A supervised field placement that was part of the applicant's master's program, during which the applicant provided clinical services directly to clients. An official of the school (Dean, Department Chair) that awarded your graduate degree must provide a letter on university letterhead verifying that the supervised practicum, internship, or field experience was completed.
- **SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE:** Two (2) years of post-master's supervised experience under the supervision of a licensed clinical social worker. These hours must be documented on the Verification of Clinical Experience Form or they will not count towards licensure. The supervision experience must have consisted of:
  - At least 100 hours of supervision in no less than 100 weeks;
  - 1,500 hours of face-to-face psychotherapy with clients; and,
  - 1 hour of supervision every two weeks
- **EXAM:** Passed the national clinical level examination developed by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB).
- **AWS & RULES COURSE:** Completed an 8-hour Florida laws and rules course from a board approved provider listed on CE Broker.
- **HIV/AIDS COURSE:** Completed a 3-hour HIV/AIDS course listed on CE Broker or complete the HIV/AIDS Affidavit.
- **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURSE:** Completed a 2-hour domestic violence course from a board approved provider listed on CE Broker within six months of licensure.
- **LICENSE VERIFICATION:** This form is required for applicants who hold or have ever held a license in another state, U.S. territory, or foreign country.

Please visit <https://floridasmmentalhealthprofessions.gov> for more information.

## Georgia

The Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers and Marriage & Family Therapists  
237 Coliseum Drive  
Macon, Georgia 31217

Phone: (844) 753-7825

### Georgia Requirements

#### **43-10A-12. Requirements for licensure in social work**

The education, experience, and training requirements for licensure in social work are as follows:

- For licensure as a master's social worker, a master's degree in social work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education; and

For licensure as a clinical social worker:

- A master's degree in social work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education; and
- As defined by the board, three years' full-time supervised experience in the practice of social work following granting of the master's degree. Of the three years of supervised experience, only the first two must be under direction. A doctoral degree in a specialty, an allied profession, or child and family development may substitute for one year of such experience. At least one year of experience shall have occurred within two years immediately preceding application for licensure as a clinical social worker or the applicant shall have met the continuing education requirement established by the board for clinical social work during the year immediately preceding application.
  - Licensed master's social workers may render or offer to render to individuals, marriages, couples, families, groups, organizations, governmental units, or the general public service which is guided by knowledge of social resources, social systems, and human behavior. They may provide evaluation, prevention, and intervention services which include but are not restricted to community organization, counseling, and supportive services such as administration, direction, supervision of bachelor's level social workers, consultation, research, or education. The first two years of their practice after licensure as a master's social worker shall be under direction and supervision. Thereafter, they may engage in private practice, except that those social workers whose practice includes counseling or psychotherapeutic techniques may only engage in such practice under the supervision of a duly qualified supervisor and only for such period of time as is prescribed for qualification to take the clinical social work licensing examination.
  - Licensed clinical social workers may practice all authorized services of licensed master's social workers and may: provide supervision and direction; provide psychosocial evaluation through data collection and analyses to diagnose the

nature of an individual's mental, cognitive, emotional, behavioral, and interpersonal problems or conditions; provide counseling and psychotherapy to individuals, marriages, couples, families, and groups; interpret the psychosocial dynamics of a situation and recommend and implement a course of action to individuals, marriages, couples, families, or groups in such settings as private practice, family service and counseling agencies, health care facilities, and schools; and provide direct evaluation, casework, social work advocacy, education, training, prevention, and intervention services in situations threatened or affected by social, intrapersonal, or interpersonal stress or health impairment.

Please visit <http://sos.ga.gov/plb/acrobat/Laws/> for more information.

## **Hawaii**

Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs  
Professional & Vocational Licensing  
King Kalakaua Building  
335 Merchant Street, Rm. 301  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 586-3000

Contact: [pvl@dcca.hawaii.gov](mailto:pvl@dcca.hawaii.gov)

### **Hawaii Requirements**

#### **§467E-7 Licensing requirements**

Every applicant for a license as a social worker shall submit evidence satisfactory to the director that the applicant meets the following requirements:

For the *licensed bachelor social worker*, the applicant:

- Holds a bachelor's degree from a college or university in a social work program accredited by or deemed to be equivalent to a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education; and
- Has passed the basic level national examination given by the Association of Social Work Boards;

For the *licensed social worker*, the applicant:

- Holds a master's degree from a college or university in a social work program accredited by or deemed to be equivalent to an accredited program by the Council on Social Work Education or a doctoral degree from a doctoral degree program in social work accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges or a comparable regional accreditation body; and
- Has passed the intermediate or higher level national examination given by the Association of Social Work Boards; and

For the *licensed clinical social worker*, the applicant:

- Has met the educational requirements in paragraph (2);
- Has passed the clinical level national examination given by the Association of Social Work Boards;
- Has provided evidence of successful completion of at least three thousand hours of post masters clinical social work experience under supervision completed within no fewer than two years, but within no more than five years. Clinical social work experience shall include a minimum of two thousand hours of assessment, clinical diagnosis, and psychotherapy; no more than a maximum of nine hundred hours of client-centered advocacy, consultation, and evaluation; and at least one hundred hours of supervision as follows:
  - At least sixty of the one hundred hours of direct face-to-face supervision shall have been individualized supervision; and

- Not more than forty hours of direct face-to-face supervision may have been under small group (up to six supervisees) supervision. An applicant who submits evidence of certification as a qualified clinical social worker or diplomate in clinical social work by the National Association of Social Workers or as a board certified diplomate by the American Board of Examiners shall be deemed to have satisfied the experience requirements of this subparagraph;

Please visit <https://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/> for more information.

## **Idaho**

Idaho Bureau of Occupational Licenses  
700 West State Street  
Boise, ID 83702

Phone: (208) 334-3233

Contact: [ibol@ibol.idaho.gov](mailto:ibol@ibol.idaho.gov)

### Idaho Requirements

#### **54-3206. LICENSING — QUALIFICATIONS**

The board shall issue licenses to qualified applicants who have passed an examination conducted or approved by the board, are of good moral character and meet one (1) of the following:

- For a *clinical social worker license* possess a master's degree or doctorate in social work and two (2) years of postgraduate supervised clinical experience approved by the board;
- For a *master's social worker license* possess a master's degree or doctorate in social work from a college or university approved by the board; or
- For a *social worker license* possess a baccalaureate degree in social work from a college or university approved by the board.

Please visit <https://legislature.idaho.gov/statutesrules> for more information.

## **Illinois**

Department of Financial & Professional Regulation  
100 West Randolph, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, IL 60601

Phone: (888) 473-4538

### **Illinois Requirements**

#### **Section 1470.10 Application for Licensure**

Each applicant seeking original licensure under Section 7 of the Act shall file an application, with the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation-Division of Professional Regulation (Division), on forms provided by the Division. The application shall include:

For a *Licensed Clinical Social Worker*:

- certification of graduation from a master's degree program in social work approved by the Division in accordance with Section 1470.30 and verification of completion of 3000 hours of satisfactory supervised clinical professional experience as set forth in Section 1470.20; or
- certification of graduation from a doctorate degree program in social work approved by the Division in accordance with Section 1470.30 and verification of completion of 2000 hours of satisfactory supervised clinical professional experience as set forth in Section 1470.20;
- proof of successful completion of the examination set forth in Section 1470.70 (The examination scores shall be submitted to the Division directly from the reporting entity.);
- the required fee set forth in Section 1470.55.

For a *Licensed Social Worker*:

- certification of graduation from a master's degree program of social work approved by the Division in accordance with Section 1470.30; or
- certification of graduation from a baccalaureate degree program of social work approved by the Division in accordance with Section 1470.30 and verification of completion of 3 years of supervised professional experience in accordance with Section 1470.20;
- proof of successful completion of the examination set forth in Section 1470.70 (The examination scores shall be submitted to the Division directly from the reporting entity.);
- the required fee set forth in Section 1470.55.

Individuals applying for a Licensed Social Worker license who have successfully completed the Masters Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) examination subsequent to October 1986 shall not be required to retake the Masters ASWB examination to be eligible for licensure.

Please visit <http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar> for more information.

## **Indiana**

Indiana Professional Licensing Agency  
302 W Washington Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Phone: (317) 232-2980

### **Indiana Requirements**

#### **Rule 3. Social Workers; Clinical Social Workers**

##### **839 IAC 1-3-1 Educational institution requirements for social worker's licensure**

- "Institution of higher education approved by the board", as used in IC 25-23.6-5-1, means an institution of higher education that has a program that is accredited or approved for candidacy by the Council on Social Work Education at the time the applicant was granted the degree. For an applicant whose degree was granted prior to June 30, 1995, the term also includes a non-accredited program in social work or clinical social work from an institution of higher education.

##### **839 IAC 1-3-2 Licensure by examination for social workers and clinical social workers**

- An applicant for licensure as a social worker or clinical social worker shall pass an examination required by the board.
- As used in IC 25-23.6-5-1 and IC 25-23.6-5-3.5, "experience" means full-time paid experience of at least one thousand five hundred (1,500) hours per year. Part-time experience will be considered if the applicant can verify a total of four thousand five hundred (4,500) hours, three thousand (3,000) hours of which must take place after receiving the graduate degree.
- As used in IC 25-23.6-5-1 and IC 25-23.6-5-3.5, supervision must be face-to-face contact between the supervisor and supervisee for the purpose of assisting the supervisee in the process of learning the skills of social work or clinical social work practice for a minimum of four (4) hours per month.
- Experience, as that term is used in IC 25-23.6-5-1 and IC 25-23.6-5-3.5, shall be earned as an employee in one (1) of the following settings:
  - Social service agencies.
  - Schools.
  - Institutions of higher education.
  - Hospitals.
  - Private practice.
  - Mental health centers.
  - Correctional institutions.
  - Home health agencies.
  - Long term health care facilities.
  - Employee assistance programs.
  - Occupational social services.
  - Military facilities

Please visit <https://www.in.gov/pla/f> for more information.

## **Iowa**

Bureau of Professional Licensure  
Iowa Department of Public Health  
Lucas State Office Building, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
321 East 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0075

Phone: (515) 281-1254

### **Iowa Requirements**

#### **645—280.3(154C) Requirements for licensure.**

The following criteria shall apply to licensure:

- The applicant shall complete a board-approved application. Application forms may be obtained from the board's website ([www.idph.iowa.gov/licensure](http://www.idph.iowa.gov/licensure)) or directly from the board office, or the applicant may complete the application online at [ibplicense.iowa.gov](http://ibplicense.iowa.gov). All paper applications shall be sent to Board of Social Work, Professional Licensure Division, Fifth Floor, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0075.
- The applicant shall complete the application form according to the instructions contained in the application. If the application is not completed according to the instructions, the application will not be reviewed by the board.
- Each application shall be accompanied by the appropriate fees payable by check or money order to the Board of Social Work. The fees are nonrefundable.
- No application shall be considered by the board until official copies of academic transcripts have been received by the board except as provided in 280.4(6).
- The applicant shall provide verification of license(s) from every state in which the applicant has been licensed as a social worker, sent directly from the state(s) to the Iowa board of social work office.
- The candidate shall take the examination(s) required by the board pursuant to these rules.
- An applicant for a license as an independent social worker shall have met the requirements for supervision pursuant to 645—280.6(154C). 2
- Each social worker who seeks to attain licensure as an independent social worker shall have been granted a master's or doctoral degree in social work and practiced at that level.
- Notification of licensure shall be sent to the licensee by regular mail.
- Licensees who were issued their initial licenses within six months prior to the renewal shall not be required to renew their licenses until the renewal date two years later.

Please visit <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/> for more information.

## Kansas

Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board  
700 SW Harrison Street, Suite 420  
Topeka, KS 66603

Phone: (784) 296-3240

### Kansas Requirements

#### **65-6306. Qualifications for licensure;**

The board shall issue a *license as a baccalaureate social worker* to an applicant who:

- Has a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university, including completion of a social work program recognized and approved by the board, pursuant to rules and regulations adopted by the board;
- has passed an examination approved by the board for this purpose; and
- has satisfied the board that the applicant is a person who merits the public trust.

The board shall issue a *license as a master social worker* to an applicant who:

- Has a master's degree from an accredited college or university, including completion of a social work program recognized and approved by the board, pursuant to rules and regulations adopted by the board;
- has passed an examination approved by the board for this purpose; and
- has satisfied the board that the applicant is a person who merits the public trust.

The board shall issue a *license in one of the social work specialties* to an applicant who:

- Has a master's or doctor's degree from an accredited graduate school of social work, including completion of a social work program recognized and approved by the board, pursuant to rules and regulations adopted by the board;
- has had two years of full-time post-master's or post-doctor's degree experience under the supervision of a licensed social worker in the area of the specialty in which such applicant seeks to be licensed;
- has passed an examination approved by the board for this purpose; and
- has satisfied the board that the applicant is a person who merits the public trust.

The board shall issue a *license as a specialist clinical social worker* to an applicant who:

- Has met the requirements of subsection (c);
- has completed 15 credit hours as part of or in addition to the requirements under subsection (c) supporting diagnosis or treatment of mental disorders with use of the American psychiatric association's diagnostic and statistical manual, through identifiable study of the following content areas: Psychopathology, diagnostic assessment, interdisciplinary referral and collaboration, treatment approaches and professional ethics;
- has completed a graduate level supervised clinical practicum of supervised professional experience including psychotherapy and assessment, integrating diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders with use of the American psychiatric association's diagnostic and

statistical manual, with not less than 350 hours of direct client contact or additional postgraduate supervised experience as determined by the board;

- has completed as part of or in addition to the requirements of subsection (c) not less than two years of postgraduate supervised professional experience in accordance with a clinical supervision plan approved by the board of not less than 4,000 hours of supervised professional experience including at least 1,500 hours of direct client contact conducting psychotherapy and assessments with individuals, couples, families or groups and not less than 150 hours of clinical supervision, including not less than 75 hours of person-to-person individual supervision, integrating diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders with use of the American psychiatric association's diagnostic and statistical manual;
- for persons earning a degree under subsection (c) prior to July 1, 2003, in lieu of the education and training requirements under parts (B) and (C) of this subsection, has completed the education requirements for licensure as a specialist clinical social worker in effect on the day immediately preceding the effective date of this act;
- for persons who apply for and are eligible for a temporary license to practice as a specialist clinical social worker on the day immediately preceding the effective date of this act, in lieu of the education and training requirements under parts (B), (C) and (D) of this subsection, has completed the education and training requirements for licensure as a specialist clinical social worker in effect on the day immediately preceding the effective date of this act;
- has passed an examination approved by the board; and
- has paid the application fee.

Please visit [http://kslegislature.org/li\\_2016/](http://kslegislature.org/li_2016/) for more information.

## **Kentucky**

Kentucky Board of Social Work  
125 Holmes Street, Suite 310  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Phone: (502) 564-2350

### **Kentucky Requirements**

#### **335.080 License, *certified social worker* – Requirements**

The board shall issue a license as "certified social worker" to an applicant who meets the following requirements:

- Is at least eighteen (18) years of age;
- Is a person of good moral character;
- Has received a master's degree or doctorate degree in social work from an educational institution approved by the board;
- Has paid to the board an examination fee established by the board by promulgation of an administrative regulation;
- Has passed an examination prepared by the board;
- Has not within the preceding three (3) months failed to pass an examination given by the board; and
- Has paid an initial license fee established by the board by promulgation of an administrative regulation.

#### **335.090 License, *licensed social worker* – Requirements**

The board shall issue a license as "licensed social worker" to an applicant who meets the following requirements:

- Is at least eighteen (18) years of age;
- Is a person of good moral character;
- Has received a baccalaureate degree in a social work or social welfare program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education; or Has received a baccalaureate degree and has completed courses equivalent to a social work or social welfare program as determined by the board;
- Has paid to the board an examination fee established by the board by promulgation of an administrative regulation;
- Has passed an examination prepared by the board;
- Has not within the preceding three (3) months failed to pass an examination given by the board; and
- Has paid an initial license fee established by the board by promulgation of an administrative regulation.

#### **335.100 License, *licensed clinical social worker* – Requirements**

The board shall issue a license as "licensed clinical social worker" to an applicant who meets the following requirements:

- Has received a master's degree or doctoral degree in social work from an educational institution approved by the board;
- Has had a minimum of two (2) years of full time post-master's experience, consisting of at least thirty (30) hours per week, or three (3) years of part time, consisting of at least twenty (20) hours per week, post-master's degree experience acceptable to the board in the use of specialty methods and measures to be employed in clinical social work practice, the experience having been acquired under appropriate supervision as established by the board by promulgation of an administrative regulation;
- Has paid to the board an examination fee established by the board by promulgation of an administrative regulation;
- Has passed an examination prepared by the board for this purpose;
- Has not within the preceding three (3) months failed to pass an examination given by the board; and
- Has paid an initial license fee established by the board by promulgation of an administrative regulation

Please visit <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/Statutes/> for more information.

## **Louisiana**

Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners  
18550 Highland Road, Suite B  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809

Phone: (225) 756-3470

Contact: [socialwork@labswe.org](mailto:socialwork@labswe.org)

### **Louisiana Requirements**

#### ***Registered Social Worker (RSW)***

- Must be of good moral character. As one element of good moral character, the board shall require each applicant to submit a full set of fingerprints for the purpose of obtaining state and federal criminal records check, pursuant to authorizing state statute and applicable federal law. The state agency responsible for managing fingerprint data may submit fingerprints to and exchange data with the FBI. All good moral character information, including the information obtained through criminal records checks, shall be considered in licensure decisions to the extent permissible by all applicable laws.
- The applicant shall have his/her university submit official transcript indicating the receipt of a bachelor of social work, bachelor of arts, or bachelor of science degree from an undergraduate social work program, accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, or a master's degree of social work from a graduate social work program, accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

#### ***Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW)***

- Must be of good moral character. As one element of good moral character, the board shall require each applicant to submit a full set of fingerprints for the purpose of obtaining state and federal criminal records check, pursuant to authorizing state statute and applicable federal law. The state agency responsible for managing fingerprint data may submit fingerprints to and exchange data with the FBI. All good moral character information, including the information obtained through criminal records checks, shall be considered in licensure decisions to the extent permissible by all applicable laws.
- The applicant shall have his/her university submit official transcript indicating the receipt of a master's degree of social work from a graduate social work program, accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.
- The applicant shall obtain a passing score on an examination approved by the board.

#### ***Certified Social Worker (CSW)***

- The board may issue certification to an applicant who meets all requirements for the LMSW except for passing the examination approved by the board.
- The individual may hold the certification for up to three years from the date of issuance of the original certificate provided the individual takes the examination approved by board within first 6 months after certification and annually for the next 2 1/2 years.
- It is the responsibility of the CSW to submit proof of examination to the board office once each year of eligibility.

- The CSW who does not pass the examination for the LMSW within three years from the date of issuance of the original certification may apply for the registered social work credential.
- In the event that the CSW does not take the examination for the LMSW within the first 6 months of issuance of the original certificate or yearly thereafter, the CSW certificate will be subject to recall by the board and the CSW will be recorded as invalid in the board's database.

***Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)***

- The applicant must be of good moral character. As one element of good moral character, the board shall require each applicant to submit a full set of fingerprints for the purpose of obtaining state and federal criminal records check, pursuant to authorizing state statute and applicable federal law. The state agency responsible for managing fingerprint data may submit fingerprints to and exchange data with the FBI. All good moral character information, including the information obtained through criminal records checks, shall be considered in licensure decisions to the extent permissible by all applicable laws.
- The applicant shall have his/her university submit official transcript indicating the receipt of a master's degree of social work from a graduate social work program, accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.
- The applicant shall submit documentation verifying at least 5760 hours of post graduate social work practice on a form provided by the board.
- The applicant shall submit documentation verifying at least 3840 hours of supervised post graduate social work experience in accordance with the board's supervision rules and on the form provided by the board.
- Supervised experience shall be under the supervision of a board-approved clinical supervisor.
- The applicant shall obtain a passing score on an examination approved by the board.

Please visit <https://www.labswe.org/> for more information.

## **Maine**

State Board of Social Work Licensure  
35 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0035

Phone: (207) 624-8623

Contact: [socwkr.board@maine.gov](mailto:socwkr.board@maine.gov)

### **Maine Requirements**

#### ***Licensed clinical social worker.***

To be qualified as a licensed clinical social worker, an applicant shall have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the board adherence to the ethics of the social work profession; shall have successfully completed the examination prescribed by the board; and shall have received either:

- A master's or doctoral degree in social work or social welfare from an accredited educational institution in a clinical concentration and:
  - Shall have subsequently completed 2 years of social work experience with 96 hours of consultation in a clinical setting; or
  - Shall have demonstrated 2 years of full-time clinical social work experience or its equivalent and have completed the graduate degree prior to January 1, 1987 and have completed 2 years of subsequent social work experience with 96 hours of consultation in a private setting; or [2013, c. 262, §3 (AMD).]
- A master's or doctoral degree in social work in a nonclinical concentration from an accredited educational institution and:
  - Shall have subsequently completed 4 years of social work experience with 192 hours of consultation in a clinical setting; or
  - Shall have demonstrated 2 years of full-time clinical social work experience or its equivalent and have completed the graduate degree prior to January 1, 1987 and have completed 4 years of subsequent social work experience with 192 hours of consultation in a private setting.

#### ***Licensed master social worker.***

As a licensed master social worker, an applicant must have received either a masters or doctoral degree in social work or social welfare from an accredited educational institution, must have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the board adherence to the ethics of the social work profession and must have successfully completed the examination prescribed by the board. After meeting these qualifications, the applicant must receive a "licensed master social worker" license. In addition, any person wishing to practice social work in a clinical setting must receive a "licensed master social worker, conditional" license.

#### ***Licensed social worker.***

To be qualified to be licensed as a social worker an applicant must meet one of the following requirements:

- The applicant must have received a bachelor's degree or higher in social work or social welfare from an accredited educational institution; demonstrated to the satisfaction of the

board adherence to the ethics of the social worker profession; and successfully completed the examination prescribed by the board; or [2009, c. 112, Pt. A, §13 (AMD).]

- The applicant must have received a conditional license as a licensed social worker in accordance with subsection 3-B; completed the requirements for consultation and contact hours in accordance with subsection 3-C, paragraph B and subsection 3-D; and successfully completed the examination prescribed by the board

***Conditional license as a licensed social worker.***

The board may issue a conditional license as a licensed social worker to an applicant who provides to the board:

- Documented proof of a bachelor's degree or higher in a field that is sufficiently related to social work or social welfare, as determined by the board; and [2009, c. 112, Pt. A, §14 (AMD).]
- Any documentation as required by the board, which may include, but is not limited to:
  - Evidence of employment in a social service delivery field; and
  - Evidence of an arrangement of consultation to be provided in accordance with subsection 3-C, paragraph B.

Please visit <http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/> for more information.

## **Maryland**

Maryland Department of Health  
Herbert R. O’Conor State Office Building  
201 W. Preston Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201

Phone: (877) 463-3464

### **Maryland Requirements**

#### **§ 19-302. Qualifications of applicants**

To obtain a license, an applicant shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board that the applicant:

- Has submitted a complete written application in the form prescribed by the Board;
- Is at least 18 years old;
- Is of good moral character;
- Except as otherwise provided in this title, has successfully passed an examination or examinations prescribed by the Board pertinent to the license sought;
- Has paid all applicable fees specified by the Board;
- Has completed a criminal history records check in accordance with § 19–302.2 of this subtitle at the applicant’s expense; and
- Has submitted to an examination if required under § 19–302.3 of this subtitle.

To obtain a *bachelor social worker license*, an applicant shall:

- Meet the requirements of subsection (a) of this section; and
- Have received a baccalaureate degree in social work from a program that is accredited or is a candidate for accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education or an equivalent organization approved by the Council on Social Work Education.

To obtain a *master social worker license*, an applicant shall:

- Meet the requirements of subsection (a) of this section; and
- Have received a master’s degree from a program that is accredited or is a candidate for accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education or an equivalent organization approved by the Council on Social Work Education.
- 

To obtain a *certified social worker license*, an applicant shall:

- Meet the requirements of subsection (a) of this section;
- Have received a master’s degree from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or an equivalent organization approved by the Council on Social Work Education; and
- Provide in a form prescribed by the Board, documentation of having completed 2 years as a licensee with supervised experience of at least 3,000 hours after receiving the master’s degree with a minimum of 100 hours of periodic face-to-face supervision in the practice of social work under the terms and conditions that the Board determines by regulation.

To obtain a *certified social worker–clinical license*, an applicant shall:

- Meet the requirements of subsection (a) of this section;
- Have received a master’s degree in social work and documentation of completion of 12 academic credits in clinical course work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or an equivalent organization approved by the Council on Social Work Education, with a minimum of 6 of the 12 academic credits obtained in a master’s degree program; and
- Provide in a form prescribed by the Board, documentation of having completed 2 years as a licensee with supervised experience of at least 3,000 hours, of which 1,500 hours are in face-to-face client contact, after receiving the master’s degree with a minimum of 144 hours of periodic face-to-face supervision in the assessment, formulation of a diagnostic impression, and treatment of mental disorders and other conditions and the provision of psychotherapy under the terms and conditions that the Board determines by regulation.

Please visit <https://health.maryland.gov/bswe/> for more information.

## **Massachusetts**

Board of Registration of Social Workers  
Division of Professional Licensure  
1000 Washington Street, Suite 710  
Boston, MA 02118

Phone: (617) 727-3073

Contact: [swboard@mass.gov](mailto:swboard@mass.gov)

### **Massachusetts Requirements**

#### **9.03: Licensure Requirements for a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW)**

An applicant may be granted a license as a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW) if he or she submits to the Board a properly-completed application for such licensure, accompanied by all of the following:

- Satisfactory written or electronic documentation that he or she holds a master's or doctoral degree in social work from a graduate school of social work accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, or a degree from a foreign educational institution which is equivalent to a master's or doctoral degree in social work as determined by the Council on Social Work Education;
- Satisfactory written or electronic documentation that he or she currently holds, or has at some time in the past held:
  - a license to practice as a Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW) issued by the Board pursuant to 258 CMR 9.04; or
  - a license to practice social work under the laws of another state, territory or political subdivision in the United States for which the educational and experiential requirements are substantially equivalent to the education and experience requirements for the LCSW license in Massachusetts as set forth in 258 CMR 9.04;
- Satisfactory written or electronic documentation that he or she has provided at least 3500 hours of clinical social work services in accordance with the requirements of 258 CMR 12.02(1) or (2) over a period of not less than two years from the date on which he or she was licensed by the Board as an LCSW as provided for in 258 CMR 9.04 and/or in compliance with the exemptions detailed in 258 CMR 9.02.
- Satisfactory written or electronic documentation that he or she has received, during the course of the post-graduate clinical social work experience required by 258 CMR 9.03(3), a minimum of 100 hours of individual face-to-face clinical supervision from:
  - an individual who holds a license as a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker issued by the Board;
  - an individual who meets the requirements for licensure in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker, but is exempt from the licensure requirement pursuant to 258 CMR 9.02(1); or
  - an individual who holds a license from another jurisdiction which authorizes that individual to provide clinical social work services as an independent practitioner,

if the requirements for the issuance of that license are, in the opinion of the Board, substantially equivalent to the requirements for licensure as a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts;

- Satisfactory written or electronic documentation that he or she has passed the Clinical licensure examination administered by the Association of Social Work Boards, or an equivalent examination as determined by the Board, not more than two years prior to the date of his or her application;
- A minimum of three professional references, on forms furnished for that purpose by the Board or its agent, from persons familiar with the applicant's professional experience in the field of social work, attesting that the applicant is of good moral character and has demonstrated that he or she will conduct his or her activities as a social worker in accordance with generally accepted standards of professional social work practice. At least one such reference shall be from a person who provided the clinical supervision required by 258 CMR 9.03(4). All such references shall be from:
  - persons who are licensed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker, psychologist, psychiatrist, or Licensed Psychiatric Nurse Mental Health Clinical Specialist; or
  - persons who are licensed in clinical social work, psychiatry, clinical psychology or psychiatric nursing in another jurisdiction.
- Payment of the licensure fees prescribed by the Executive Office of Administration and Finance pursuant to M.G.L. c. 7, § 3B.

#### **9.04: Licensure Requirements for a Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW)**

An applicant may be granted a license as a Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW) if he or she submits to the Board a properly-completed application for such licensure, accompanied by all of the following:

- Satisfactory written or electronic documentation that he or she holds a master's or doctoral degree in social work from a graduate school of social work accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, or a degree from a foreign educational institution which is equivalent to a master's or doctoral degree in social work as determined by the Council on Social Work Education;
- Satisfactory written or electronic documentation that he or she has passed the Intermediate licensure examination administered by the Association of Social Work Boards, or an equivalent examination as determined by the Board, not more than two years prior to the date of his or her application;
- A minimum of three professional references, on forms furnished for that purpose by the Board or its agent, from persons familiar with the applicant's professional experience in the field of social work, attesting that the applicant is of good moral character and has demonstrated that he or she will conduct his or her activities as a social worker in accordance with generally accepted standards of professional social work practice. One such reference shall be from the applicant's most recent field placement supervisor, a person who is licensed by the Board as a Licensed Certified Social Worker or Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker, or a person who is eligible for such licensure pursuant to 258 CMR 9.03, 258 CMR 9.04 or 258 CMR 9.07; and
- Payment of the licensure fees prescribed by the Executive Office of Administration and Finance pursuant to M.G.L. c. 7, § 3B.

### **9.05: Licensure Requirements for a Licensed Social Worker (LSW)**

An applicant may be granted a license as a Licensed Social Worker (LSW) if he or she submits to the Board a properly-completed application for such licensure, accompanied by all of the following:

- Satisfactory written or electronic documentation that he or she possesses one of the following combinations of education and social work experience:
  - A baccalaureate degree in social work (BSW) from an undergraduate school or program of social work accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, or a degree from a foreign educational institution which is equivalent to a baccalaureate degree in social work as determined by the Council on Social Work Education; or
  - A baccalaureate degree in a field other than social work from an accredited college or university, plus a minimum of 3500 hours of work experience over not less than two years in the provision of social work services as an employee of an agency, health care facility or unrelated individual and under the direct supervision of an individual who meets the requirements of 258 CMR 9.05(2); or
  - A minimum of 2½ years (75 semester hours or 100 quarter hours), but less than four years, of undergraduate college education at an accredited college or university, plus a minimum of 8,750 hours of work experience over not less than five years in the provision of social work services as an employee of an agency, health care facility or unrelated individual and under the direct supervision of an individual who meets the requirements of 258 CMR 9.05(2); or
  - Two years (60 semester hours or 80 quarter hours) of undergraduate college education at an accredited college or university, plus a minimum of 10,500 hours of work experience over not less than six years in the provision of social work services as an employee of an agency, health care facility or unrelated individual and under the direct supervision of an individual who meets the requirements of 258 CMR 9.05(2); or
  - One year (30 semester hours or 40 quarter hours) of undergraduate college education at an accredited college or university, plus a minimum of 14,000 hours of work experience over not less than eight years in the provision of social work services as an employee of an agency, health care facility or unrelated individual and under the direct supervision of an individual who meets the requirements of 258 CMR 9.05(2); or
  - A high school diploma, or its equivalent, plus a minimum of 17,500 hours of work experience over not less than ten years in the provision of social work services as an employee of an agency, health care facility or unrelated individual and under the direct supervision of an individual who meets the requirements of 258 CMR 9.05(2).
- In the case of any applicant who is applying for licensure pursuant to any provision of 258 CMR 9.05(1) other than 258 CMR 9.05(1)(a), satisfactory written or electronic documentation that he or she completed the required work experience in the provision of social work services under the direct supervision of, and received individual face-to-face supervision at a rate of not less than one hour of supervision for every 35 hours of work experience from:

- An individual who holds a license as a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker issued by the Board;
  - An individual who meets the requirements for licensure in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker, but is exempt from the licensure requirement pursuant to 258 CMR 9.02(1);
  - An individual who holds a license from another jurisdiction which authorizes that individual to provide clinical social work services as an independent practitioner, if the requirements for the issuance of that license are, in the opinion of the Board, substantially equivalent to the requirements for licensure as a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts;
  - An individual who holds a license as a Licensed Certified Social Worker issued by the Board pursuant to 258 CMR 9.04;
  - An individual who meets the requirements for licensure in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a Licensed Certified Social Worker, but is exempt from the licensure requirement pursuant to 258 CMR 9.02(1);
  - An individual who holds a license from another jurisdiction for which the requirements for licensure in that jurisdiction are, in the opinion of the Board, substantially equivalent to the requirements for licensure as a Licensed Certified Social Worker in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; or
  - An individual who holds at least a baccalaureate degree in social work (BSW) from an undergraduate school or program of social work accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, or a degree from a foreign educational institution which is equivalent to a baccalaureate degree in social work as determined by the Council on Social Work Education.
- Satisfactory written or electronic documentation that he or she has passed the Basic licensure examination administered by the Association of Social Work Boards, or its successor agency, or an equivalent examination as determined by the Board, not more than two years prior to the date of his or her application;
  - A minimum of three professional references, on forms furnished for that purpose by the Board or its agent, from persons familiar with the applicant's professional experience in the field of social work, attesting that the applicant is of good moral character and has demonstrated that he or she will conduct his or her activities as a social worker in accordance with generally accepted standards of professional social work practice. One such reference shall be from the person who supervised the applicant in his or her most recent social work employment setting, a person who is licensed by the Board as a Licensed Certified Social Worker or Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker, or a person who is eligible for such licensure pursuant to 258 CMR 9.03, 258 CMR 9.04 or 258 CMR 9.07; and
  - Payment of the licensure fees prescribed by the Executive Office of Administration and Finance pursuant to M.G.L. c. 7, § 3B.

#### **9.06: Licensure Requirements for a Licensed Social Work Associate (LSWA)**

An applicant may be granted a license as a Licensed Social Work Associate (LSWA) if he or she submits to the Board a properly-completed application for such licensure, accompanied by all of the following:

- Satisfactory written or electronic documentation that he or she possesses one of the following levels of education and training:
  - An associate degree, or at least 60 credit hours of college education, in the fields of social work, psychology, counseling or other similar human services field, from an accredited college or university; or
  - A baccalaureate degree in any field from an accredited college or university; or
  - A minimum of 1000 hours of education in social work theory and methods in courses or programs approved by the Board;
- Satisfactory written or electronic documentation that he or she has attained the Associate level passing score on the Basic licensure examination administered by the Association of State Social Work Boards, or its successor agency, or an equivalent examination as determined by the Board, not more than two years prior to the date of his or her application;
- A minimum of three professional references, on forms furnished for that purpose by the Board or its agent, from person's familiar with the applicant's professional experience in the field of social work, attesting that the applicant is of good moral character and has demonstrated that he or she will conduct his or her activities as a social worker in accordance with generally accepted standards of professional social work practice. At least one such reference shall be from a person who is licensed by the Board as a Licensed Certified Social Worker or Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker, or a person who is eligible for such licensure pursuant to 258 CMR 9.03, 258 CMR 9.04 or 258 CMR 9.07; and
- Payment of the licensure fees prescribed by the Executive Office of Administration and Finance pursuant to M.G.L. c. 7, § 3B.

Please visit <https://www.mass.gov/> for more information.

## Michigan

Department of Licensing & Regulatory Affairs  
Ottawa Building  
611 W. Ottawa  
P.O. Box 30004  
Lansing, MI 48909

Phone: (517) 373-1820

Contact: [bplhelp@michigan.gov](mailto:bplhelp@michigan.gov)

### Michigan Requirements

#### ELIGIBILITY FOR FULL MASTER'S SOCIAL WORKER LICENSE (LMSW) BY EXAMINATION

- Graduate with a master's degree from an educational program that is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).
- Complete at least 4,000 hours of post-degree supervised social work experience over at least a two-year period. If the experience is gained in Michigan, must hold a Limited LMSW License. Must complete experience in a setting that includes work in the area of designation that will part of the MSW license; either Clinical, Macro (administrative), or both.
- Arrange for submission of verification of licensure in any state where licensed, even if the license is no longer active.
- Pass either the Clinical or the Advanced Generalist (Macro designation) Examination that is conducted by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB).
- Submit the fee with the application that is found here.
- A criminal background check is required if not previously taken for a Michigan health professional license. Fingerprints must be taken using the instructions and ID numbers that are sent to the applicant after the license application and fee are received.

#### ELIGIBILITY FOR FULL BACHELOR'S SOCIAL WORKER LICENSE (LBSW) BY EXAMINATION

- Graduate with a bachelor's degree from a CSWE-accredited educational program.
- Complete at least 4,000 hours of post-degree supervised social work experience over at least a two-year period. If the experience is gained in Michigan, must hold a Limited LBSW License.
- Pass the Bachelors Examination that is conducted by the ASWB.
- Submit the fee with the application that is found here.
- A criminal background check is required if not previously taken for a Michigan health professional license. Fingerprints must be taken using the instructions and ID numbers that are sent to the applicant after the license application and fee are received.

Please visit <https://www.michigan.gov/> for more information.

## **Minnesota**

Board of Social Work  
2829 University Ave SE Suite #340  
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Phone: (612) 617-2100

Contact: [Social.work@state.mn.us](mailto:Social.work@state.mn.us)

### **Minnesota Requirements**

#### ***Licensed Social Worker, LSW***

- Academic Degree: Baccalaureate degree in social work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or the Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work.
- Examination: Passing score on the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) bachelors level national social work licensure examination.
- Criminal Background Check: All applicants for initial licensure must complete a fingerprint-based criminal background check (CBC) within 90 days of the application received date under Minnesota Statutes section 214.075. If you do not hold a current license, including a temporary license, with the Board you must submit the required fee and comply with fingerprint-based CBC requirements. If fingerprints are not submitted to the Criminal Background Check Program Office within 90 days of the application received date, the CBC fee is void and a new CBC fee is required.
- Ethical Standards: Must not have engaged in conduct that would be in violation of the Boards ethical standards of practice.
- Supervised Practice: Supervised practice is not required at the time of initial licensure, but is required once the license is issued. Once licensed 100 hours of direct supervision per 4,000 hours of practice is required. For more information on supervised practice

#### ***Licensed Graduate Social Worker, LGSW***

- Academic Degree: Graduate degree in social work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or the Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work.
- Examination: Passing score on the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) masters level national social work licensure examination.
- Criminal Background Check: All applicants for initial licensure must complete a fingerprint-based criminal background check (CBC) within 90 days of the application received date under Minnesota Statutes section 214.075. If you do not hold a current license, including a temporary license, with the Board you must submit the required fee and comply with fingerprint-based CBC requirements. If fingerprints are not submitted to the Criminal Background Check Program Office within 90 days of the application received date, the CBC fee is void and a new CBC fee is required.
- Ethical Standards: Must not have engaged in conduct that would be in violation of the Boards ethical standards of practice.

- Supervised Practice: Supervised practice is not required at initial license, but required for the LGSW once the license is issued. If engaged in non-clinical practice, 100 hours of direct supervision per 4,000 hours practice is required. If engaged in clinical practice, 200 hours of supervision over 4,000-8,000 hours of practice is required. For more information on supervised practice

### ***Licensed Independent Social Worker, LISW***

- Academic Degree: Graduate degree in social work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or the Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work.
- Examination: Passing score on the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) advanced generalist level national social work licensure examination.
- Criminal Background Check: All applicants for initial licensure must complete a fingerprint-based criminal background check (CBC) within 90 days of the application received date under Minnesota Statutes section 214.075. If you do not hold a current license, including a temporary license, with the Board you must submit the required fee and comply with fingerprint-based CBC requirements. If fingerprints are not submitted to the Criminal Background Check Program Office within 90 days of the application received date, the CBC fee is void and a new CBC fee is required.
- Ethical Standards of Practice: Must not have engaged in conduct that would be in violation of the Boards ethical standards of practice.
- Supervised Practice: Documentation of supervised practice is required to be eligible for the LISW license. 100 hours of direct supervision per 4,000 hours of non-clinical practice is required. For more information on supervised practice

### ***Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker, LICSW***

- Academic Degree and Required Clinical Coursework: Graduate degree in social work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or the Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work.
- 360 Clinical Clock Hours: The LICSW license requires documentation of 360 clock hours in the following clinical knowledge areas:
  - 108 clock hours in differential diagnosis and biopsychosocial assessment, including normative development and psychopathology across the life span
  - 36 clock hours in assessment-based clinical treatment planning with measurable goals
  - 108 clock hours in clinical intervention methods informed by research and current standards of practice
  - 18 clock hours in evaluation methodologies
  - 72 clock hours in social work values and ethics, including cultural context, diversity, and social policy
  - 18 clock hours in culturally specific clinical assessment and intervention
- The 360 clock hours may be satisfied through:
  - a graduate degree program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, the Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work, or a similar accreditation body designated by the board; or a doctorate in social work from an accredited university; or

- graduate coursework from an accredited institution of higher learning; or
  - up to 90 continuing education (CE) hours, not to exceed 20 hours of independent study. The CE must 1) have a course description available for public review and 2) include a post-test.
- 
- Examination: Passing score on the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) clinical level national social work licensure examination.
  - Criminal Background Check: All applicants for initial licensure must complete a fingerprint-based criminal background check (CBC) within 90 days of the application received date under Minnesota Statutes section 214.075. If you do not hold a current license, including a temporary license, with the Board you must submit the required fee and comply with fingerprint-based CBC requirements. If fingerprints are not submitted to the Criminal Background Check Program Office within 90 days of the application received date, the CBC fee is void and a new CBC fee is required.
  - Ethical Standards of Practice: Must not have engaged in conduct that would be in violation of the Boards ethical standards of practice.
  - Supervised Practice: Documentation of supervised practice is required to be eligible for the LICSW license. 200 hours of direct supervision per 4,000 hours of clinical practice, including 1800 hours of direct clinical client contact. For more information on supervised practice

Please visit <https://mn.gov/boards/social-work/applicant/licsw.jsp> for more information.

## Mississippi

Mississippi State Board of Examiners for Social Workers and Marriage & Family Therapists  
350 West Woodrow Wilson Avenue  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Suite 761  
Jackson, MS 39213

Phone: (601) 987-6806

Contact: [info@swmft.ms.gov](mailto:info@swmft.ms.gov)

### Mississippi Requirements

A license as a “*licensed social worker*” shall be issued to an applicant who demonstrates to the satisfaction of the board that he or she meets the following qualifications:

- Has a baccalaureate degree in social work from a college or university accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and has satisfactorily completed the Association for Social Work Boards (ASWB) examination for this license; or
- Has a comparable license or registration from another state or territory of the United States of America that imposes qualifications substantially similar to those of this chapter.

A license as a “*licensed master’s social worker*” shall be issued to an applicant who demonstrates to the satisfaction of the board that he or she meets the following qualifications:

- Has a doctorate or master’s degree from a school of social work accredited by the Council on Social Work Education; and
- Has satisfactorily completed the ASWB examination for this license; or
- Has a comparable license or registration from another state or territory of the United States of America that imposes qualifications substantially similar to those of this chapter.

A license as a “*licensed certified social worker*” shall be issued to an applicant who demonstrates to the satisfaction of the board that he or she meets the following qualifications:

- Is licensed under this section as a “master’s social worker”; and
- Has twenty-four (24) months of professional supervision and clinical or macro social work practice experience acceptable to the board, under appropriate supervision; and
- Has satisfactorily completed the ASWB examination for this license; or
- Has a comparable license or registration from another state or territory of the United States of America that imposes qualifications substantially similar to those of this chapter

Please visit <https://www.swmft.ms.gov/> for more information.

## **Missouri**

Committee for Social Workers  
3605 Missouri Boulevard  
P.O. Box 1335  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-1335

Phone: (573) 751-4220

Contact: [lcsw@pr.mo.gov](mailto:lcsw@pr.mo.gov)

### **Missouri Requirements**

#### **20 CSR 2263-2.020 Educational Requirements for Licensed Social Workers**

- An applicant for registration of supervision, or a social work license, must have a degree from a professional social work program in an acceptable educational institution. An acceptable educational institution is a college or university program of social work accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) or its successor organization, or an equivalent accreditation program, acceptable to the committee, in countries outside the United States.
- Verification of the degree is required by means of an official transcript sent directly to the committee by the educational institution

#### **20 CSR 2263-2.030 Supervised Licensed Social Work Experience**

- Supervision of the applicant for licensure shall not begin, and will only be acceptable to the committee, after the satisfactory completion of the educational requirements as set forth in the rules promulgated by the committee.
- The supervisor must have met the requirements for an acceptable supervisor, as set out in 20 CSR 2263-2.031, at the time the supervision was performed.
- Acceptable supervised licensed social work experience has the following characteristics:
  - Allowable supervision:
    - A minimum of two (2) hours every two (2) weeks of individual face-to-face supervision by the supervisor;
    - However, individual face-to-face supervision may be consolidated for up to four (4) weeks for a total of four (4) hours of individual face-to-face supervision per four (4)-week period. These hours shall be included in the total number of supervised hours required in subsection (3)(B). Fifty percent (50%) of supervision may be group supervision;
    - For the purpose of this rule, group supervision may consist of at least three (3), and no more than six (6) supervisees; and
    - The use of electronic communications is acceptable for meeting supervision requirements of this rule only if the ethical standards for confidentiality are maintained and communication is verbally and visually interactive between the supervisor and the supervisee;
  - The minimum acceptable supervised experience shall be three thousand (3,000) hours obtained in no less than twenty-four (24) and no more than forty-eight (48) consecutive calendar months. The forty-eight (48)-month time frame may

include periods of unemployment and/or part-time employment. The total time frame is calculated in consecutive months, not the employment within that period. Supervised experience toward the three thousand (3,000) required hours which is not within a consecutive forty-eight (48)-month period, is not eligible for submission toward licensure; and

- The practice of social work by the supervisee shall be performed under the oversight, guidance, control, and full professional responsibility of the supervisor approved by the committee, in compliance with all laws and regulations relating to the practice of social work. In the event the applicant fails to pre-approve their supervisor(s), or are applying through reciprocity, the committee may review the supervision for compliance and consideration for licensure.
- An application for licensure must be submitted pursuant to the rules promulgated by the committee upon completion of the supervised social work experience. All applicants for licensure must remain under approved supervision until the license is approved by the committee.

Please visit <https://www.sos.mo.gov/> for more information.

## **Montana**

Montana Department of Labor & Industry  
Board of Behavioral Health  
1315 Lockey Ave  
Helena, MT 59601

Phone: (406) 841-2394

Contact: [dlibsdbbh@mt.gov](mailto:dlibsdbbh@mt.gov)

### **Montana Requirements**

#### **37-22-301. License requirements**

- A license applicant shall satisfactorily complete an examination prescribed by the board.
- Before an applicant may take the examination, the applicant shall present three letters of reference from licensed social workers, licensed clinical social workers, psychiatrists, or psychologists who have knowledge of the applicant's professional performance and shall demonstrate to the board that the applicant:
  - has a doctorate or master's degree in social work from a program accredited by the council on social work education or approved by the board;
  - has completed at least 24 months of supervised post master's degree work experience in psychotherapy, which included 3,000 hours of social work experience, of which at least 1,500 hours were in direct client contact, within the past 5 years; and
  - abides by the social work ethical standards adopted under 37-22-201.
- An applicant who fails the examination may reapply to take the examination.
- An applicant is exempt from the examination requirement if the applicant satisfies the board that the applicant is licensed, certified, or registered under the laws of a state or territory of the United States that imposes substantially the same requirements as this chapter and that the applicant has passed an examination similar to that required by the board.
- As a prerequisite to the issuance of a license, the board shall require the applicant to submit fingerprints for the purpose of fingerprint checks by the Montana department of justice and the federal bureau of investigation as provided in 37-1-307.
- If an applicant has a history of criminal convictions, then pursuant to 37-1-203, the applicant has the opportunity to demonstrate to the board that the applicant is sufficiently rehabilitated to warrant the public trust, and if the board determines that the applicant is not, the license may be denied.

Please visit <https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/> for more information.

## **Nebraska**

Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services  
301 Centennial Mall South  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

Phone: (402) 471-2117

Contact: [Heidi.Weiland@nebraska.gov](mailto:Heidi.Weiland@nebraska.gov)

### **Nebraska Requirements**

#### **94-005.01 INITIAL CERTIFICATION AS A CERTIFIED MASTER SOCIAL WORKER:**

- Have a master's or doctorate degree in social work from an approved education program approved by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) showing receipt of either the master's or doctorate degree in social work;
- Have 3,000 hours of experience in the practice of social work as defined in 172 NAC 94-002 (definition of social work), under the supervision of a certified master social worker. The hours must have been earned following receipt of the master's or doctorate degree;
- Have passed the Clinical Social Work examination administered by the American Association of State Social Work Boards (ASWB) with a scaled score of 75 or higher; and
- Have attained at least the age of majority and have good moral character.

#### **94-006 PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATION AS A MASTER SOCIAL WORKER (PCMSW) REQUIREMENTS:**

- Have a master's or doctorate degree from an approved social work program;
- Have arranged supervision with a qualified supervisor in Nebraska; and
- Have attained at least the age of majority and be of good moral character.

#### **94-007 CERTIFIED SOCIAL WORKER**

- Have a baccalaureate degree, master's degree, or doctorate degree in social work from an approved education program; and
- Have attained at least the age of majority and have good moral character.

Please visit <http://www.sos.ne.gov/rules-and-regs> for more information.

## Nevada

State of Nevada Board of Examiners for Social Workers  
4600 Kietzke Lane, #C121  
Reno, NV 89502

Phone; (775) 688-2555

Contact: [slowery@besw.nv.gov](mailto:slowery@besw.nv.gov)

### Nevada Requirements

#### *Licensed Social Worker (LSW)*

- Applicant must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.
- Applicant must be a United States citizen or must be lawfully entitled to remain and work in the United States.
  - U.S. citizens must submit a copy of their birth certificate or passport. (Hospital certificates are not acceptable).
  - Naturalized citizens must forward a copy of their naturalization certificate.
  - Aliens must submit a copy of documentation from the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service evidencing the lawful entitlement of the applicant to remain and work in the United States.
- A copy of current, legible, official government photo identification (i.e. Driver's License)
- Copies of legal documents must be submitted verifying all name changes from birth to current name.
- All applicants for licensure must submit to the Board two complete sets of his/her fingerprints and accompanying waiver form, authorizing the Board to process the fingerprint cards. Applicants will be sent the Fingerprint Packet upon receipt of their application (or with the exam packet if the exam is required). The applicant is responsible for the fees required to complete the background check. A money order or certified check in the amount of \$36.25 made payable to the Nevada Dept. of Public Safety (NV DPS) must be submitted with the Fingerprint Packet. Changes to fingerprint fees are beyond the Board's control. It is highly recommended that applicants check the Board's website for any fee changes prior to sending in the fingerprint cards. Fees incorrectly received will be rejected.
- Applicant must possess a baccalaureate or master's degree in Social Work from a college or university accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or which is a candidate for such accreditation. An applicant must request that the college or university from which (s)he graduated forward directly to the Board a certified transcript of his / her educational coursework and the degree awarded.
  - In addition to a transcript sent directly to the Board from his/her university, a graduate of a foreign social work program must also submit the appropriate forms and documentation to the Council on Social Work Education for evaluation of foreign credentials and cause the Council on Social Work Education to submit an original letter to the Board verifying equivalency.

- Applicants who are currently, or have previously been certified, registered or licensed to practice social work in another state must request verification of certification, registration, or licensure be sent directly to the Board from each state
- Applicants who hold a current license, in good standing, to engage in the practice of social work in another state may apply for licensure via Endorsement.
- Applicant must pass an examination given by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) or an exam accepted by the Board, equivalent to the level of licensure requested. Once the completed application for licensure with all supporting documents and fees have been received and the application is approved, the applicant will receive an “exam approval letter.” An examination fee will be required by ASWB when you register to take the examination (see below).
  - An applicant who possesses a baccalaureate degree in social work will be approved to take the ASWB Bachelors examination.
  - An applicant who possesses a master’s degree in social work will be given the option of taking either the ASWB Bachelors or the Masters examination. If an applicant plans to apply for an internship to complete postgraduate hours for a Clinical or Independent Social Worker license (s)he will need to show proof of a satisfactory score on the ASWB Masters examination.
  - An applicant who has taken the ASWB examination in another state must have verification of examination results sent directly to the Board from the state for which examination was taken or from ASWB. See form on the website -- <http://socwork.nv.gov/>.
    - If the applicant is not currently licensed in another state, the appropriate examination must have been taken within six (6) months prior to the submission of this application.
    - An applicant who is enrolled in his/her last semester before the award of a social work degree in a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education is eligible to sit for the examination prior to graduation. The applicant must request the social work program to send verification of enrollment in final semester directly to the Board.

*Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) or Independent Social Worker (LISW)*

- Applicant must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.
- Applicant must be a United States citizen or must be lawfully entitled to remain and work in the United States.
  - U.S. citizens must submit a copy of their birth certificate or passport. (Hospital certificates are not acceptable).
  - Naturalized citizens must forward a copy of their naturalization certificate.
  - Aliens must submit a copy of documentation from the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service evidencing the lawful entitlement of the applicant to remain and work in the United States.
- A copy of current, legible, official government photo identification (i.e. Driver’s License)
- Copies of legal documents must be submitted verifying all name changes from birth to current name.
- All applicants for licensure must submit to the Board two complete sets of his/her fingerprints and accompanying waiver form, authorizing the Board to process the

fingerprint cards. Applicants will be sent the Fingerprint Packet upon receipt of their application (or with the exam packet if the exam is required). The applicant is responsible for the fees required to complete the background check. A money order or certified check in the amount of \$36.25 made payable to the Nevada Dept. of Public Safety (NV DPS) must be submitted with the Fingerprint Packet. Changes to fingerprint fees are beyond the Board's control. It is highly recommended that applicants check the Board's website for any fee changes prior to sending in the fingerprint cards. Fees incorrectly received will be rejected.

- Applicant must possess a master's degree in Social Work from a college or university accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or which is a candidate for such accreditation. An applicant must request that the college or university from which (s)he graduated forward directly to the Board a certified transcript of his / her educational coursework and the degree awarded.
  - In addition to a transcript sent directly to the Board from his / her university, a graduate of a foreign social work program must also submit the appropriate forms and documentation to the Council on Social Work Education for evaluation of foreign credentials and cause the Council on Social Work Education to submit an original letter to the Board verifying equivalency.
- Applicants who have previously been certified, registered or licensed to practice social work in another state must request verification of certification, registration, or licensure be sent directly to the Board from each state
- Applicants who hold a current license, in good standing, to engage in the practice of clinical / independent social work in another state, may apply for licensure via Endorsement if the requirements at the time the license was issued are substantially equivalent to the requirements in Nevada.
- Applicant must have passed an examination given by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB), or an exam accepted by the Board, equivalent to the level of licensure requested if licensed less than five (5) years. Once the completed application for licensure with all supporting documents and fees have been received and the application is approved, the applicant will receive an "exam approval letter" if required. An examination fee will be required by ASWB when you register to take the examination (see below).
  - An applicant requesting licensure as a Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) must show proof of a satisfactory score on the ASWB Clinical examination or Board accepted alternate exam.
  - An applicant requesting licensure as an Independent Social Worker (LISW) must show proof of a satisfactory score on the ASWB Advanced Generalist Exam or Board accepted alternate exam.
  - An applicant who has taken the ASWB examination in another state must have verification of examination results sent directly to the Board from the state for which examination was taken or from ASWB

Please visit <http://socwork.nv.gov/licensees/LicNewApp/> for more information.

## **New Hampshire**

Office of Professional Licensure and Certification  
121 South Fruit Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Phone: (603) 271-2152

Contact: [sheri.walsh@oplcnh.gov](mailto:sheri.walsh@oplcnh.gov)

### **New Hampshire Requirements**

#### **330-A:18 Clinical Social Workers.**

The board shall issue a clinical social worker license to any person who meets all of the following requirements or their equivalent:

- Has received a college undergraduate degree.
- Has received a 2-year master's degree or doctorate degree in social work from a school approved by the Council on Social Work Education.
- Has completed a minimum of 2 years of post-master's experience including completion of a minimum of 3,000 hours of post-masters, supervised clinical experience.
- Has passed a national proctored examination approved by the board.

Please visit <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us> for more information.

## New Jersey

State Board of Social Work Examiners  
P.O. Box 45033  
Newark, New Jersey 07101

Phone: (973) 504-6495

### New Jersey Requirements

The board shall issue a license as a "*licensed clinical social worker*" to an applicant who has:

- Received a master's degree in social work from an educational program accredited, or in candidacy for accreditation, by the Council on Social Work Education, or a doctorate in social work from an accredited institution of higher education;
- Had at least two years of full-time experience in the practice of clinical social work under the supervision of a clinical social worker licensed by this State or who, by virtue of the supervisor's education and experience, is eligible for licensure in this State as a licensed clinical social worker, or any other supervisor who may be deemed acceptable to the board;
- Satisfactorily completed minimum course requirements established by the board to ensure adequate training in methods of clinical social work practice; and
- Passed an appropriate examination provided by the board for this purpose.

The board shall issue a license as a "*licensed social worker*" to an applicant who has:

- Received a master's degree in social work from an educational program accredited, or in candidacy for accreditation, by the Council on Social Work Education or a doctorate in social work from an accredited institution of higher education; and
- Passed an appropriate examination provided by the board for this purpose.

The board shall certify an applicant who has:

- received a baccalaureate degree in social work from an educational program accredited, or in candidacy for accreditation, by the Council on Social Work Education ; or
- on or before the effective date of this act, acquired a baccalaureate degree in a field related to human services from an accredited institution of higher education and has engaged in fulltime social work for at least one year prior to the effective date

Please visit <https://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/Statutes> for more information.

## New Mexico

New Mexico Regulation & Licensing Department  
Toney Anaya Building  
2550 Cerrillos Road  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Phone: (505) 476-4500

### New Mexico Requirements

The board shall issue a license as a *baccalaureate social worker* to any person who files a completed application, accompanied by the required fees, and who submits satisfactory evidence that the applicant:

- has reached the age of majority;
- has at least a bachelor's degree in social work from a program accredited by the council on social work education; and
- demonstrates professional competence by satisfactorily passing a written examination as prescribed by the board.

The board shall issue a *license as a master social worker* to any person who files a completed application, accompanied by the required fees, and who submits satisfactory evidence that the applicant:

- has reached the age of majority;
- has obtained a master's degree in social work from a graduate school of social work accredited by the council on social work education; and
- demonstrates professional competence by satisfactorily passing a written examination as prescribed by the board.

The board shall issue a license as an *independent social worker* to any person who files a completed application, accompanied by the required fees, and who submits satisfactory evidence that the applicant:

- has reached the age of majority;
- has obtained a master's degree in social work from a graduate school of social work accredited by the council on social work education;
- has two years of postgraduate social work practice under appropriate supervision; and
- demonstrates professional competence by satisfactorily passing a written examination as prescribed by the board.

Please visit <http://www.rld.state.nm.us/> for more information.

## New York

NY State Education Department  
Office of the Professions  
Division of Professional Licensing Services –Social Work Unit

89 Washington Avenue  
Albany, NY 12234-1000

Phone: (518) 474-3817 (ext. 592)

### New York Requirements

- To qualify for a license as a "*licensed master social worker*" an applicant shall fulfill the following requirements:
  - Application: file an application with the department;
  - Education: have received an education, including a master's of social work degree from a program registered by the department, or determined by the department to be the substantial equivalent, in accordance with the commissioner's regulations;
  - Experience: meet no requirement as to experience;
  - Examination: pass an examination satisfactory to the board and in accordance with the commissioner's regulations;
  - Age: be at least twenty-one years of age;
  - Character: be of good moral character as determined by the department; and
  - Fees: pay a fee of one hundred fifteen dollars to the department for an initial license, and a fee of one hundred fifty-five dollars for each triennial registration period.
- To qualify for a license as a "*licensed clinical social worker*", an applicant shall fulfill the following requirements:
  - Application: file an application with the department;
  - Education: have received an education, including a master's of social work degree from a program registered by the department, or determined by the department to be the substantial equivalent, that includes completion of a core curriculum which includes at least twelve credit hours of clinical courses,, in accordance with the commissioner's regulations; a person who has received a master's, or equivalent degree in social work, during which they did not complete a core curriculum which includes clinical courses, may satisfy this requirement by completing equivalent post-graduate clinical coursework, in accordance with the commissioner's regulations;
  - Experience: have at least three years full-time supervised post-graduate clinical social work experience in diagnosis, psychotherapy, and assessment-based treatment plans,, or its part-time equivalent, obtained over a continuous period not to exceed six years, under the supervision, satisfactory to the department, of a psychiatrist, a licensed psychologist, or a licensed clinical social worker in a facility setting or other supervised settings approved by the department. Satisfactory experience obtained in an entity operating under a waiver issued by the department pursuant to section sixty-five hundred three-a of this title may be

accepted by the department, notwithstanding that such experience may have been obtained prior to the effective date of such section sixty-five hundred three-a and/or prior to the entity having obtained a waiver. The department may, for good cause shown, accept satisfactory experience that was obtained in a setting that would have been eligible for a waiver but which has not obtained a waiver from the department or experience that was obtained in good faith by the applicant under the belief that appropriate authorization had been obtained for the experience, provided that such experience meets all other requirements for acceptable experience;

- Examination: pass an examination satisfactory to the board and in accordance with the commissioner's regulations;
- Age: be at least twenty-one years of age;
- Character: be of good moral character as determined by the department; and
- Fees: pay a fee of one hundred fifteen dollars to the department for an initial license and a fee of one hundred fifty-five dollars for each triennial registration period.

Please visit <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/sw/article154.htm> for more information.

## North Carolina

North Carolina Social Work Certification and Licensure Board  
P.O. Box 1043  
Asheboro, NC 27204

Phone: (336) 625-1679

Contact: [mlilly@ncswboard.org](mailto:mlilly@ncswboard.org)

### North Carolina Requirements

#### **1. LEVEL A - CERTIFIED SOCIAL WORKER (CSW)**

- **EDUCATION:** BSW from CSWE accredited undergraduate school.
- **EXAMINATION:** ASWB **Bachelor level** examination.
- **EXPERIENCE:** No prior experience required.
- **APPLICATION FEE:** \$115
- **BIENNIAL RENEWAL:** \$70 and documentation of 40 clock hours of CE (4 in ethics) every 2 years.

#### **2. LEVEL B - CERTIFIED MASTER SOCIAL WORKER (CMSW)**

- **EDUCATION:** MSW, DSW, or PhD in social work from CSWE accredited school.
- **EXAMINATION:** ASWB **Master level** examination or ACSW examination.
- **EXPERIENCE:** No prior experience required.
- **APPLICATION FEE:** \$115
- **BIENNIAL RENEWAL:** \$90 and documentation of 40 clock hours of CE (4 in ethics) every 2 years.

#### **3a. LEVEL C - LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER (LCSW) – [MANDATORY for clinical practice]**

- **EDUCATION:** MSW, DSW or PhD in social work from CSWE accredited school.
- **EXAMINATION:** ASWB **Clinical level** exam.
- **EXPERIENCE:** Minimum of 3,000 hours of post MSW paid clinical employment (appropriately supervised clinical practice) **accumulated in no less than two (2) years, nor more than six (6) years.**
- **SUPERVISION:** Minimum of 100 hours of supervision from a LCSW, MSW with an additional 2 years post LCSW clinical social work practice, on a regular basis: at least one (1) hour of supervision for every thirty (30) hours of clinical practice. A maximum of twenty-five (25) hours may be group supervision.
- **APPLICATION FEE:** \$115
- **BIENNIAL RENEWAL:** \$150 and documentation of 40 clock hours (4 in ethics) every 2 years.

#### **3b. LEVEL C - LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER ASSOCIATE (LCSWA) - For social workers who have not satisfied the experience requirements for LCSW licensure. [For more information, refer to the LCSW ASSOCIATE LICENSE tab.]**

- EDUCATION: MSW, DSW, or PhD in social work from a CSWE accredited school.
- EXAMINATION: None required for initial licensure; however, LCSWA licensees must pass the ASWB Clinical level exam within their initial licensure period to be eligible for renewal if additional time is required to satisfy the 2 years/3000 hours of supervised clinical experience needed for LCSW licensure.
- EXPERIENCE: While no experience is required to receive this license, associate licensees must document their supervision and practice to the Board every 6 months as required by regulation. Acceptable experience must be post MSW paid clinical employment.
- APPLICATION FEE: \$115
- BIENNIAL RENEWAL: \$140 and documentation of 40 clock hours of CE (4 in ethics) every 2 years, but cannot exceed 6 years (2 renewal cycles).

#### **4. LEVEL H - CERTIFIED SOCIAL WORK MANAGER (CSWM)**

- EDUCATION: BSW, MSW, DSW, or PhD in Social Work from a CSWE accredited school.
- EXAMINATION: ASWB Advanced Generalist level examination
- EXPERIENCE: Three thousand (3,000) hours of post degree paid employment accumulated in no less than two (2) years, no more than six (6) years.
- SUPERVISION: Minimum of 100 hours of supervision on a regular basis, by a Social Work Administrator certified by the Board on at least one level and who has a minimum of five years administration experience in a Social Work or Mental Health setting. A maximum of fifty (50) hours may be through group supervision.
- APPLICATION FEE: \$115
- BIENNIAL RENEWAL: \$150 and documentation of 40 clock hours (4 in ethics) every 2 years.

Please visit <http://www.ncswboard.org/page/certification-licensure.html> for more information.

## North Dakota

ND Board of Social Work Examiners  
P.O. Box 914  
Bismarck, ND 58502-0914

Phone: (701) 222-0255

### North Dakota Requirements

The board shall issue a license as a *licensed social worker* to an applicant who:

- Has a baccalaureate degree in social work from a college or university.
- Has passed an examination approved by the board for this purpose.
- Has satisfied the board that the applicant agrees to adhere to the code of social work ethics adopted by the board.

The board shall issue a license as a *licensed certified social worker* to an applicant who:

- Has a doctorate or master's degree in social work from a college or university.
- Has passed an examination approved by the board for this purpose.
- Has satisfied the board that the applicant agrees to adhere to the code of social work ethics adopted by the board.

To obtain a license to practice *clinical social work*, an applicant for licensure by examination shall submit to the board a written application in the form prescribed by the board and provide satisfactory evidence the applicant:

- Has a doctorate or master's degree in social work from an approved social work program.
- Passed an examination approved by the board for this purpose.
- Within a four-year period successfully completed three thousand hours of supervised post-master's clinical social work experience. The initial one thousand five hundred of the required hours must have been under the supervision of a clinical social worker. Additional hours of supervision may be under other qualified mental health professionals approved by the board if barriers due to the geographical location, disability, or other factors determined by the board to create a hardship exist for the applicant. The qualified professional must be registered or otherwise qualified as a clinical supervisor by the board that licenses the other professional. However, if an applicant began supervised post-master's clinical social work experience before August 1, 2009, a master's social worker who has two years of experience, a licensed psychologist with a doctorate degree, or a licensed psychiatrist may have supervised the required hours. The applicant may demonstrate to the board's satisfaction that experience in the practice of clinical social work meets or exceeds the minimum supervisory requirements of the board.
- Agrees to adhere to the code of social work ethics adopted by the board.
- Is of good moral character. In determining the character of an applicant in a licensure decision, the board shall consider information obtained through reports made under section 43-41-04.2.
- Paid all applicable fees specified by the board regarding the licensure process.

Please visit <https://www.legis.nd.gov/cencode/t43c41.pdf?20150722090825> for more information.

## **Ohio**

Counselor, Social Worker and Marriage & Family Therapist Board  
77 South High Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 2468  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6171

Phone: (614) 466-0912

Contact: [cswmft.info@cswb.ohio.gov](mailto:cswmft.info@cswb.ohio.gov)

### **Ohio Requirements**

#### ***Social Work Assistant***

- You must have received at least an associate degree in social service technology from an accredited academic institution. A “social service technology degree” is an associate, bachelor, master, or doctoral degree where the following minimum curriculum standards are met:
  - Forty-five quarter hours, or thirty semester hours, of core social service/social work skills, theory, and systems courses, which must include a social service practicum; and,
  - Twenty-one quarter hours or fourteen semester hours of related courses such as psychology, sociology, and economics.
  - The applicant must have received a grade of at least a “C-“ in all relevant coursework.
- complete the SWA application online and pay the \$60 application fee
- View the Board's Laws and Rules video: <http://cswmft.ohio.gov/Laws-Rules-Video>  
This is a review of the Board's rules and ethics requirements, and will help you understand your responsibilities as a licensee
- Complete the BCI and FBI background checks:  
<http://cswmft.ohio.gov/BCIFBIBackgroundChecks.aspx> Background checks are valid for one year once completed.
- Have your school submit OFFICIAL transcripts, showing your degree conferred, directly to the board.

#### ***Licensed Social Worker***

- complete a bachelors, masters or doctorate degree in social work from an accredited program. Degrees in other fields are no longer eligible for licensure
- The first step for licensure is to complete the LSW application online and pay the \$80 application
- You will also be requesting approval to take the licensure examination. Bachelor's-level graduates, or those who are enrolled in the final term of a Bachelor's program, are required to take the Bachelor's exam. Master's-level graduates, or those who are enrolled in the final term of a Master's program, are required to take the Master's exam. Be prepared to attach a copy of your driver's license and a copy of your degree
- Upon receipt of the above items, you will receive an exam pre-approval email, approving you to contact Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) to pay the examination fee

(\$230 for either the Bachelor's or the Master's exam). Once you pay for the test, ASWB will email information so you can register with a Pearson Testing Center for the exam

- View the Board's online Laws and Rules video: <http://cswmft.ohio.gov/Laws-Rules-Video> this is a review of the Board's rules and ethics requirements, and will help you understand your responsibilities as a licensee.
- Complete the BCI and FBI background checks: <http://cswmft.ohio.gov/BCIFBIBackgroundChecks.aspx> Background checks are valid for one year once completed.
- Have your school submit OFFICIAL transcripts, showing your degree conferred, directly to the board.

### ***Licensed Independent Social Worker***

- completion of a master's degree in social work from a CSWE accredited program, and a minimum of two years post-MSW and post LSW experience with 150 hours of documented training supervision by a LISW-S.
- The requirement is at least two full years and 3,000 hours of supervised social work experience. This means at least 24 full months, during which time you are practicing social work and receiving training supervision.
  - for every 20 hrs of work, with a minimum of 150 total hours of supervision for the 3,000 hours of supervised social work practice.
  - If you are only practicing part-time, you may not be credited with more than 1,500 hours of experience during any 12-month period. If you have more than 1,500 hours during your first 12 months, the excess cannot be carried over to the next 12 month period.
- complete the LISW application online and pay the \$100 application fee
- If you have not already tested, you will receive an exam pre-approval email after you apply, approving you to contact Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) to pay the examination fee (\$260 for either the Clinical or Advanced Generalist exam). Once you pay for the test, ASWB will email information so you can register with a Pearson Testing Center for the exam.
- View the Board's online Laws and Rules video: <http://cswmft.ohio.gov/Laws-Rules-Video> This is a review of the Board's rules and ethics requirements, and will help you understand your responsibilities as a licensee.
- If the Board does not have your MSW/MSSA transcripts on file, have your school submit official transcripts, showing your degree conferred, directly to the board
- Complete the BCI and FBI background checks: <http://cswmft.ohio.gov/BCIFBIBackgroundChecks.aspx> Background checks are valid for one year once completed.

Please visit <https://cswmft.ohio.gov/Social-Workers/> for more information.

## **Oklahoma**

Oklahoma State Board of Licensed Social Workers  
3700 N. Classen Blvd. STE 162  
Oklahoma City, OK 73154

Phone: (405) 521-3712

Contact: [james.marks@oswb.ok.gov](mailto:james.marks@oswb.ok.gov)

### **Oklahoma Requirements**

- As a *licensed social work associate (LSWA)* who has a baccalaureate degree in social work from an accredited institution or an approved social work program or both and has passed the examination provided for under these provisions or who has a doctoral or master's degree in social work from an institution with a program accredited by an approved social work program and has passed the examination provided for under these provisions
- As a *licensed master's social worker (LMSW)* who has a master's degree in social work from an accredited institution or an approved social work program or both and has passed the examination provided for under the Social Worker's Licensing Act;
- As a *licensed social worker (LSW)* who has a master's degree in social work from an accredited institution or an approved social work program or both and has two (2) years of full-time postgraduate experience in the practice of social work under professional supervision of a person licensed under those provisions, and who has passed the examination provided for under the provisions of the Social Worker's Licensing Act
- As a *licensed clinical social worker (LCSW)* who has a master's degree in social work from an accredited institution or an approved social work program or both and has two (2) years of full-time postgraduate experience in the practice of clinical social work under professional supervision of a person licensed by the Social Worker's Licensing Act, and who has passed the examination provided for under the Social Worker's Licensing Act; and
- As a *licensed social worker with administration specialty (LSW-ADM)* who has a master's degree in social work from an accredited institution or an approved social work program or both and has two (2) years of full-time postgraduate experience in the practice of administrative social work under professional supervision of a person licensed by the Social Worker's Licensing Act, and who has passed the examination provided for under the Social Worker's Licensing Act

### **Qualifications for all Licensees:**

- Submit a written application in a form prescribed by the State Board of Licensed Social Workers;
- Have attained the age of majority;
- Be of good moral character;
- Have graduated and received a degree in social work from an approved social work program; 5. Have completed any necessary post graduate experience and supervision in the practice of social work;

- Have passed the necessary examination and paid all fees required by the Board; and
- Submit to a national criminal history record check

Please visit <https://www.ok.gov/socialworkers> for more information.

## Oregon

Oregon Board of Licensed Social Workers  
3218 Pringle Rd SE Ste. 240  
Salem, OR 97302-6310

Phone: (503) 378-5735

Contact: [Oregon.bls@oregon.gov](mailto:Oregon.bls@oregon.gov)

### Oregon Requirements

To be eligible for initial certificate of registration or license, a person must meet the requirements in sections (1) through (6) of this rule:

- The person must submit a complete and accurate application on a form provided by the board.
- The person must hold the degree described in sub-section (b) of this section from a college or university accredited by or considered in candidacy status by a credentialing body recognized by the board. The Council on Social Work Education and the Canadian Association for Social Work Education are recognized by the Board. The Board accepts determinations of equivalency of foreign degrees by the Council on Social Work Education's International Social Work Degree Recognition and Evaluation Service. Submission of proof of foreign degree equivalency and cost of the foreign degree equivalency determination are the responsibility of the applicant.
  - The degree required for initial registration is a baccalaureate degree in social work.
  - The degree required for initial licensure is a master's degree in social work.
- The person must be fit to practice social work in Oregon. The board uses the following standard and procedure to make a fitness determination:
  - To be fit to practice social work in Oregon, the person must have demonstrated and must currently have:
    - Good moral character.
    - A personal history of conduct that is consistent with the standards contained in division 30 of this chapter of rules.
    - In the event the person's history includes conduct that may call into question the person's fitness, the board will consider, if made available by the person, the amount of time elapsed since the conduct and the person's relevant conduct since the questioned conduct, including remedial or compensatory actions taken by the person, if appropriate.
- The person must be fit to practice social work in Oregon. In making this fitness determination, the board will consider whether the person is subject of an investigation or disciplinary action by a licensing board and the reasons for the action.
- The person must pass the following examination administered by the Association of Social Work Boards:
  - For registration as a baccalaureate social worker, the bachelor's level examination.
  - For licensure as a master's social worker, the master's level examination.

- The person must achieve a score of 90 percent on the examination on the Oregon statutes and rules prepared by the board on:

To be eligible for an initial *clinical social work license*, except when the provisions of OAR 877-020-0016 apply, a person must meet the requirements in sections (1) through (5) of this rule:

- The person must complete the requirements in OAR 877-020-0009 to receive a certificate of social work associate and must hold a current certificate in good standing, or must have completed the equivalent of this requirement in another state.
- The person must be fit to practice social work in Oregon. In making this fitness determination, the board will consider whether the person is subject of an investigation or disciplinary action by a licensing board and the reasons for the action. The board uses the following additional standard and procedure to make a fitness determination:
  - To be fit to practice social work in Oregon, the person must have demonstrated and must currently have:
  - Good moral character
  - A personal history of conduct that is consistent with the standards contained in division 30 of this chapter of rules.
  - In the event the person's history includes conduct that may call into question the person's fitness, the board will consider, if made available by the person, the amount of time elapsed since the conduct and the person's relevant conduct since the questioned conduct, including remedial or compensatory actions taken by the person, if appropriate.
- The person must complete the requirements of an approved plan of practice and supervision in accordance with the rules in this division of rules.
- The person must pass both the examination administered by the board on the subjects listed in section (5)(a) of this rule with a score of not less than 90 per cent and a national examination for clinical social workers administered by an organization approved by the board on the subjects listed in section (5)(b) of this rule. The person may take the national exam any time after having completed 75 hours of supervision required

Please visit <https://www.oregon.gov/blsw/> for more information.

## **Pennsylvania**

State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors  
P.O. Box 2649  
Harrisburg, Pa 17105-2649

Phone: (717) 783-1389

Contact: [ST-SOCIALWORK@PA.GOV](mailto:ST-SOCIALWORK@PA.GOV)

### **Pennsylvania Requirements**

#### **§ 47.12a. Licensed social worker.**

To be issued a license to hold oneself out as a licensed social worker, an applicant shall provide proof satisfactory to the Board, that the applicant has met the following conditions:

- Satisfied the general requirements for licensure of § 47.12 (relating to qualifications for licensure).
- Received a master's degree in social work or social welfare from a school which was an accredited school on the date the degree was awarded or a doctoral degree in social work.
- Passed the examination required by § 47.11 (relating to licensure examination).
  - Students who graduate from social work or social welfare master's degree programs that are in candidacy for accreditation at the time of their graduation may apply for licensure when the program obtains accreditation.
  - An applicant who is a graduate of a foreign school shall submit to the Board an evaluation of foreign credentials performed by the Council on Social Work Education, which assesses the foreign credentials to be the equivalent of the curriculum policy of an accredited graduate school during the same time period, to be considered as meeting the requirements of having earned a master's degree in social work or social welfare from an accredited school.
  - If an applicant has a graduate or an equivalent degree or certificate in social work or social welfare, which was granted prior to July 1, 1952, the Board will review the complete application individually.

#### **§ 47.12c. Licensed clinical social worker.**

To be issued a license to hold oneself out as a licensed clinical social worker, an applicant shall provide proof satisfactory to the Board, that the applicant has met the following conditions:

- Satisfied the general requirements for licensure of § 47.12 (relating to qualifications for licensure).
- Holds a master's degree in social work or social welfare or a doctoral degree in social work from a school accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. An applicant who is a graduate of a foreign school shall submit to the Board an evaluation of foreign credentials performed by the Council on Social Work Education, which assesses the foreign credentials to be the equivalent of the curriculum policy of an accredited graduate school during the same time period, to be considered as meeting the requirements of having earned a master's degree in social work or social welfare from an accredited school.
- Is licensed under the act as a social worker.

- Passed the examination required under § 47.11 (relating to licensure examination).
- Has completed at least 3,000 hours of supervised clinical experience meeting the criteria in subsection (b) after completion of the master's degree in social work or holds an Academy of Certified Social Workers Certificate issued by the National Association of Social Workers prior to January 1, 2001. Supervision for the clinical experience shall be provided by a supervisor as defined in §§ 47.1 and 47.1a (relating to definitions; and qualifications for supervisors).
- Supervised clinical experience. Experience acceptable to the Board means experience as a supervisee in a setting that is organized to prepare the applicant for the practice of clinical social work consistent with the applicant's education and training, and conforms to the following:
  - At least 1/2 of the experience shall consist of providing services in one or more of the following areas:
    - Assessment.
    - Psychotherapy.
    - Other psychosocial-therapeutic interventions.
    - Consultation.
    - Family therapy.
    - Group therapy.
  - Supervision for the clinical experience shall be provided by a supervisor as defined in §§ 47.1 and 47.1a. However, at least 1/2 of the required hours shall be supervised by a supervisor meeting the qualifications in § 47.1a(1) and (3).
  - A supervisee shall disclose his status as a supervisee to each patient and obtain written permission to discuss the patient's case with the supervisor.
  - The supervisor shall oversee, direct, recommend and instruct the clinical social work activities of the supervisee.
    - A supervisor who is temporarily unable to provide supervision shall designate another supervisor as a substitute.
    - Although the supervisor shall continue to bear the ultimate responsibility for supervision, those to whom supervisory responsibilities are delegated shall be individually responsible for activities of the supervisee performed under their supervision.
  - The supervisor, or one to whom supervisory responsibilities have been delegated, shall meet with the supervisee for a minimum of 2 hours for every 40 hours of supervised clinical experience. At least 1 of the 2 hours shall be with the supervisee individually and in person, and 1 of the 2 hours may be with the supervisee in a group setting and in person.
  - A supervisor shall supervise no more than 6 supervisees at the same time. If this provision creates an undue hardship on a supervisee, the supervisor and supervisee may request an exception to this provision. The request shall state, in writing, the reasons why this provision creates a hardship on the supervisee and why the supervisee is not able to obtain a supervisor who meets the requirements of this provision. Before making a determination, the Board may require a personal appearance by the supervisee and supervisor.

- A supervisor who wishes to terminate supervision during the training period shall give the supervisee 2 weeks written notice to enable the supervisee to obtain another qualified supervisor. A supervisor may not terminate supervision when termination would result in abandonment of the supervisee's client/patient.
- Supervised work activity will be counted toward satisfying the experience requirement only if it takes place in a single setting for either, first, at least 30 hours per week but no more than 50 hours per week during at least a 3 month period or, second, at least 15 hours per week for a period of at least 6 months.
- The supervised clinical experience shall be completed in no less than 2 years and no more than 6 years, except that at least 500 hours and no more than 1,800 hours may be credited in any 12-month period.

Please visit <https://www.pacode.com/secure/> for more information.

## **Rhode Island**

Department of Health  
Licensing Unit  
Room 105A  
3 Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02908

Phone: (401) 222-5960

### **Rhode Island Requirements**

A license as a "*licensed clinical social worker*" shall be issued to an applicant who meets the following qualifications:

- Has a doctorate in clinical social work from a duly accredited college or university or master's degree from a school of social work accredited by the council on social work education, and
- Has satisfactorily completed an examination for this license, or
- Has a comparable license, certification, or registration from the state, or another state or territory of the United States that imposes qualifications substantially similar to those of this chapter, as determined by the board.

A license for a "*licensed independent clinical social worker*" shall be issued to an applicant who meets the following qualifications:

- Is licensed under this chapter as a "licensed clinical social worker", and
- Has twenty-four (24) months of experience acceptable to the board, under appropriate supervision, and
- Has fulfilled the continuing education requirements for this license, and
- Has satisfactorily completed an examination for this license, or
- Has a comparable license, certification, or registration from the state, or another state or territory of the United States that imposes qualifications substantially similar to those of this chapter.

In addition to these qualifications, an applicant for any of the these titles must prove to the board's satisfaction:

- An age of at least twenty-one (21) years;
- That he or she merits the public trust;
- A United States citizenship or proof of other legal resident status;
- An absence of conviction of a felony, which is subject to waiver by the board upon presentation of satisfactory evidence that this conviction does not impair the ability of the person to conduct with safety to the public the practice authorized by this license. The applicant shall bear the burden of proving that his or her conviction does not impair his or her ability to conduct with safety to the public the practice authorized by this license;
- An absence of NASW sanction for violation of Code of Ethics, or other state board sanction which is subject to waiver by the board upon presentation of satisfactory evidence that this sanction does not impair the ability of the person to conduct with safety

to the public the practice authorized by this license. The applicant bears the burden of proving that his or her sanction does not impair his or her ability to conduct with safety to the public the practice authorized by this license;

- That the applicant has not been declared mentally incompetent by any court, and if any decree has ever been rendered, that there has been a subsequent court determination that the applicant is competent; and
- Freedom from use of any controlled substance or any alcoholic beverages to the extent that the use impairs the ability of the person to conduct with safety to the public the practice authorized by this license. The applicant bears the burden of proving that he or she is free from use of any controlled substance or any alcoholic beverages that impair his or her ability to conduct with safety to the public the practice authorized by this license.

Please visit <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/> for more information.

## **South Carolina**

South Carolina Department of Labor  
Licensing and Regulation  
110 Centerview Drive  
Columbia, SC

Phone: (803) 896-4664

Contact: [Contact.SocialWork@llr.sc.gov](mailto:Contact.SocialWork@llr.sc.gov)

### **South Carolina Requirements**

#### **SECTION 40-63-220. Licensure requirements; Baccalaureate Social Worker.**

To be licensed as a Baccalaureate Social Worker, an applicant must:

- have submitted a written application in the form prescribed by the board;
- be at least twenty-one years of age;
- be of good moral character;
- have received a baccalaureate degree in social work from a program accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting body for social work programs, or from a social work program whose standards are at least equivalent to the minimum standards required by the nationally recognized accrediting body approved by the board;
- have successfully passed an examination prescribed by the board;
- have paid all applicable fees specified by the board.

#### **SECTION 40-63-230. Licensure requirements; Masters Social Worker.**

To be licensed as a *Masters Social Worker*, an applicant must:

- have submitted a written application in the form prescribed by the board;
- be at least twenty-one years of age;
- be of good moral character;
- have received a masters or doctorate degree in social work from a program accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting body for social work programs, or from a social work program whose standards are at least equivalent to the minimum standards required by the nationally recognized accrediting body as approved by the board;
- have successfully passed an examination prescribed by the board;
- have paid all applicable fees specified by the board.

#### **SECTION 40-63-240. Licensure requirements; Independent Social Worker-Clinical Practice.**

To be licensed as an *Independent Social Worker-Clinical Practice*, an applicant must:

- have submitted a written application in the form prescribed by the board;
- be at least twenty-one years of age;
- be of good moral character;
- have received a masters or doctorate degree in social work from a program accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting body for social work programs, or from a social work

program whose standards are at least equivalent to the minimum standards required by the nationally recognized accrediting body as approved by the board;

- course work content from a program accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting body for social work programs or from a social work program whose standards are at least equivalent to the minimum standards required by the nationally recognized accrediting body as approved by the board shall include forty-five academic contact hours each of:
  - psychopathology;
  - psychodiagnostics;
- demonstrate to the board the satisfactory completion of three thousand hours of social work practice under clinical supervision, which meets the following criteria, or demonstrate to the board's satisfaction equivalent supervised experience in the practice of Clinical Social Work. The board may review extraordinary circumstances related to supervised practice. Supervised practice under clinical supervision shall meet the following requirements:
  - must have occurred after licensure as a Masters Social Worker and over a minimum two-year and maximum four-year period;
  - must include face-to-face meetings between the approved clinical supervisor and the supervisee for a minimum of one hundred hours of direct clinical supervision equitably distributed;
  - be documented by a plan for clinical supervision, filed with the board before beginning the period of supervision, (properly amended by submission of a notice of the end of supervision and a termination evaluation if a supervisory change is made) and submitted to the board with a termination evaluation at the end of the supervisory period;
- have obtained fifteen academic contact hours or twenty continuing education contact hours in professional ethics during the course of the professional supervision period, or have completed a board sponsored specialty course in professional ethics;
- have successfully passed an examination prescribed by the board;
- have paid all applicable fees specified by the board.

To be licensed as an *Independent Social Worker-Advanced Practice*, an applicant must:

- have submitted a written application in the form prescribed by the board;
- be at least twenty-one years of age;
- be of good moral character;
- have received a masters or doctorate degree in social work from a program accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting body for social work programs, or from a social work program whose standards are at least equivalent to the minimum standards required by the nationally recognized accrediting body as approved by the board;
- course work content shall include ninety academic contact hours of course work in advanced social work practice with communities and organizations;
- demonstrate to the board the satisfactory completion of three thousand hours of social work practice under advanced practice supervision, which meets the following criteria, or demonstrate to the board's satisfaction equivalent supervised experience in the practice of advanced practice social work. The board may review extraordinary circumstances

related to supervised practice. Supervised practice under advanced practice supervision shall meet the following requirements:

- must have occurred after licensure as a Masters Social Worker and over a minimum two-year and maximum four-year period;
- must include face-to-face meetings between the approved advanced practice supervisor and the supervisee for a minimum of one hundred hours of direct advanced practice supervision equitably distributed;
- be documented by a plan for advanced practice supervision, filed with the board before beginning the period of supervision, (properly amended by submission of a notice of the end of supervision and a termination evaluation if a supervisory change is made) and submitted to the board with a termination evaluation at the end of the supervisory period;
- have obtained fifteen academic contact hours or twenty continuing education contact hours in professional ethics during the course of the professional supervision period, or have completed a board sponsored specialty course in professional ethics;
- have successfully passed an examination prescribed by the board;
- have paid all applicable fees specified by the board.

Please visit <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t40c063.php> for more information.

## **South Dakota**

Board of Social Work Examiners  
810 N. Main Street, Suite 298  
Spearfish, SD 57783

Phone: (605) 773-3165

### **South Dakota Requirements**

#### ***Social Work Associate***

- Baccalaureate degree in a nonsocial work field or discipline or an associate of arts degree in the human services in a program approved by the Board from a junior college, college, or university approved by the Board ; and
- Passed an examination prepared by the Board for this purpose.

#### ***Social Workers***

- Baccalaureate degree in a social work or social welfare program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education; or
- Passed an examination prepared by the Board for this purpose.

#### ***Certified Social Worker***

- Doctorate or master's degree from a school of social work accredited by the Council on Social Work Education; and
- Passed an examination prepared by the Board for this purpose.

#### ***Certified Social Worker in Private or Independent Practice***

- Licensed under this chapter (SDCL 36-26) as a certified social worker (for a minimum of two years),
- 2 years of experience under appropriate supervision in the field of specialization in which the applicant will practice (e.g. psychotherapy, community organization, or planning); and
- Passed an examination prepared by the Board for this purpose.

Please visit [https://dss.sd.gov/licensingboards/socialwork\\_licensing.aspx](https://dss.sd.gov/licensingboards/socialwork_licensing.aspx) for more information.

## **Tennessee**

Health Professional Boards  
Board of Social Workers  
710 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, TN 37243

Contact: [tn.health@tn.gov](mailto:tn.health@tn.gov)

### **Tennessee Requirements**

#### ***Baccalaureate Social Worker.***

After December 31, 2010, an applicant for a license as a baccalaureate social worker shall submit the following to the Board office:

- Completed application on a form prescribed by the Board, which shall include, but not be limited to disclosures of the following:
  - Criminal conviction(s), except for traffic violations;
  - Denial of licensure or discipline imposed by another state's licensing board, should the person have a license in another state;
  - Loss or restriction of licensure privileges; and
  - Civil suit judgment or adverse civil settlement involving the applicant.
- Payment of the application, license, and state regulatory fees;
- A passport-style photograph taken within twelve (12) months preceding the date the application is submitted to the Board office;
- Results of his or her criminal background check to be sent from the vendor directly to the Board office;
- An official transcript showing a bachelor's degree in social work from his/her institution to be submitted directly from the school to the Board office. The institution must be accredited by the Council on Social Work Education at the time the degree was granted; and
- Proof that he or she has successfully passed the Association of Social Work Board's bachelor's licensing examination with a passing score of seventy-five (75).

#### ***Master's Social Worker.***

After December 31, 2010, an applicant for a license as a master's social worker shall submit the following to the Board office:

- Completed application on a form prescribed by the Board, which shall include, but not be limited to disclosures of the following:
  - Criminal conviction(s), except for traffic violations;
  - Denial of licensure or discipline imposed by another state's licensing board, should the person have a license in another state;
  - Loss or restriction of licensure privileges; and
  - Civil suit judgment or adverse civil settlement involving the applicant.
- Payment of the application, license, and state regulatory fees;
- A passport-style photograph taken within twelve (12) months preceding the date the application is submitted to the Board office;

- Results of his or her criminal background check to be sent from the vendor directly to the Board office;
- An official transcript showing a master's degree in social work from his/her institution to be submitted directly from the school to the Board office. The institution must be accredited by the Council on Social Work Education at the time the degree was granted; or a doctorate in social work; and
- Proof that he or she has successfully passed the Association of Social Work Board's master's licensing examination with a passing score of seventy-five (75).

***Advanced Practice Social Worker.***

After December 31, 2010, an applicant for a license as an advanced practice social worker shall submit the following to the Board office:

- Completed application on a form prescribed by the Board, which shall include, but not be limited to disclosures of the following:
  - Criminal conviction(s), except for traffic violations;
  - Denial of licensure or discipline imposed by another state's licensing board, should the person have a license in another state;
  - Loss or restriction of licensure privileges; and
  - Civil suit judgment or adverse civil settlement involving the applicant.
- Payment of the application, license, and state regulatory fees;
- A passport-style photograph taken within twelve (12) months preceding the date the application is submitted to the Board office;
- Results of his or her criminal background check to be sent from the vendor directly to the Board office;
- An official transcript showing a master's degree in social work from his/her institution to be submitted directly from the school to the Board office. The institution must be accredited by the Council on Social Work Education at the time the degree was granted; or a doctorate in social work
- Proof that he or she has successfully passed the Association of Social Work Board's advanced generalist licensing examination with a passing score of Seventy-five (75); and
- Proof that he or she has practiced for no less than two (2) years after the date of application as a licensed master's social worker or temporarily licensed master's social worker under the supervision of a licensed advanced practice social worker or licensed clinical social worker. In the event that the applicant is from another state, then the applicant must have worked under the supervision of a person who possesses the same or exceeds the same educational and experience requirements to obtain licensure as an advanced practice social worker in Tennessee. Within a period of no less than a (2) year period, and within a six (6) year period, the applicant shall demonstrate proof of having obtained the following:
  - Licensure as a temporarily licensed master's social worker or as a licensed master's social worker is a prerequisite to filing an application for licensure and/or beginning a supervised clinical experience for the purpose of licensure. A photocopy of the applicant's current L.M.S.W. license or temporarily L.M.S.W. license must accompany the L.A.P.S.W. application.
  - At least three thousand (3000) hours of non-clinical experience, that may include administrative and direct client-social worker contact;

- At least one hundred (100) of the three thousand (3000) hours must be between supervisor and supervisee;
- Not less than sixty (60) of the one hundred (100) supervisor contact hours must be one-to-one supervision between the supervisor and supervisee; no more than forty (40) hours may be in a situation where the supervisor is working with no more than four (4) supervisees in a group setting; and
- Supervision by someone who is related to the supervisee by marriage or family or by someone who shares the same household as the supervisee is
- not acceptable

***Clinical Social Worker.***

After December 31, 2010, an applicant for a license as a clinical social worker shall submit the following to the Board office:

- Completed application on a form prescribed by the Board, which shall include, but not be limited to disclosures of the following:
  - Criminal conviction(s), except for traffic violations;
  - Denial of licensure or discipline imposed by another state's licensing board, should the person have a license in another state;
  - Loss or restriction of licensure privileges; and
  - Civil suit judgment or adverse civil settlement involving the applicant.
- Payment of the application, license, and state regulatory fees;
- A passport-style photograph taken within twelve (12) months preceding the date the application is submitted to the Board office;
- Results of his or her criminal background check to be sent from the vendor directly to the Board office;
- An official transcript showing a master's degree in social work from his/her institution to be submitted directly from the school to the Board office. The institution must be accredited by the Council on Social Work Education at the time the degree was granted; or a doctorate in social work;
- Proof that he or she has successfully passed the Association of Social Work Board's clinical licensing examination with a passing score of seventy-five (75); and
- Proof that he or she has practiced for not less than two (2) years after the date of application as a licensed master's social worker or temporarily licensed master's social worker under the supervision of a licensed clinical social worker. In the event that the applicant is from another state, then the applicant must have worked under the supervision of a person who possesses the same or exceeds the same educational and experience requirements to obtain licensure as a clinical social worker in Tennessee. Within a period of no less than a two (2) year period, and within a six (6) year period, the applicant shall demonstrate proof of having obtained the following:
  - Licensure as a temporarily licensed master's social worker or as a licensed master's social worker is a prerequisite to filing an application for licensure and/or beginning a supervised clinical experience for the purpose of licensure. A photocopy of the applicant's current L.M.S.W. license or temporarily L.M.S.W. license must accompany the L.C.S.W. application.
  - At least three thousand (3000) hours of clinical experience, meaning client therapist contact;

- At least one hundred (100) of the three thousand (3000) hours must be between supervisor and supervisee;
- Not less than (60) of the one hundred (100) supervisor contact hours must be one-to-one supervision between the supervisor and supervisee; no more than forty (40) hours may be in a situation where the supervisor is working with no more than four (4) supervisees in a group setting; and
- Supervision by someone who is related to the supervisee by marriage or family or by someone who shares the same household as the supervisee is not acceptable.

Please visit <https://publications.tnsosfiles.com/rules> for more information.

## **Texas**

Texas State Board of Social Examiners  
Texas Department of State Health Services  
P.O. Box 149347  
Austin, Texas 78714-9347

Phone: (512) 719-3521

Contact: [lsw@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:lsw@hhsc.state.tx.us)

### **Texas Requirements**

#### **Sec. 505.353. ELIGIBILITY.**

To be eligible for a license under this chapter, an applicant must:

- be at least 18 years of age;
- be worthy of the public trust and confidence;
- satisfy the education and experience requirements under this section; and
- pass the licensing examination conducted by the board under Section 505.354 and the jurisprudence examination conducted by the board under Section 505.3545.
- An applicant may take the licensing examination conducted by the board under Section 505.354 for:
  - a *master social worker license* if the applicant possesses a doctoral or master's degree in social work from a graduate program that is accredited by or is in candidacy for accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education;
  - a *baccalaureate social worker license* if the applicant possesses a baccalaureate degree in social work from an educational program that is accredited by or is in candidacy for accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education; or
  - a *clinical social worker license* if the applicant possesses a doctoral or master's degree in social work from an accredited graduate program approved by the board and meets the qualifications for clinical social work practice as determined by the board under this chapter.
- The board may require an applicant to submit documentary evidence of the quality, scope, and nature of the applicant's experience and competence to:
- determine the credibility and acceptability of the applicant's professional or technical experience or competence; and ensure the public safety, health, and welfare.

Please visit <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/> for more information.

## **Utah**

Utah Department of Commerce  
Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing  
Social Work  
160 East 300 South  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

Phone: (801) 530-6628

Contact: [jzaelit@utah.gov](mailto:jzaelit@utah.gov)

### **Utah Requirements**

#### **Education:**

- a master's degree qualifying an applicant for licensure as an SSW shall be in a field of social work, psychology, marriage and family therapy, or mental health counseling

#### **Experience:**

2,000 hours of supervised qualifying experience for licensure as an SSW shall be:

- performed as an employee of an agency providing social work services and activities;
- performed according to a written social work job description approved by the licensed mental health therapist supervisor; and
- completed over a duration of not less than one year.

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#### **Requirements for Licensure as an LCSW:**

4,000 hours of clinical social work and mental health therapy training qualifying an applicant for licensure as an LCSW shall:

- be obtained after completion of the education requirement set forth in Subsections 58-60-205(1)(d) and (g) and shall not include any clinical practicum hours obtained as part of the education program;
- be completed over a period of not less than two years;
- unless this Subsection (2) applies, be completed while the applicant is licensed as a CSW;
- be completed while the applicant is employed by a public or private agency engaged in mental health therapy;
- be completed under a program of general supervision by an LCSW meeting the requirements of Sections R156-60a-302e and R156-60a-601; and
- include the following training requirements:
  - individual, family, and group therapy;
  - crisis intervention;
  - intermediate treatment; and
  - long term treatment.

An applicant may apply to the Division for an LCSW license without complying with this Subsection (1)(c) if:

- the applicant qualifies for a license exemption under Subsection 58-1-307(1)(a); or
- the applicant completed training in another jurisdiction, which training is completed:

- while the applicant is licensed as the equivalent of a CSW; or
- while the applicant is not required to be licensed while engaged in the practice of certified social work.

**Examination:**

- The examination requirements for licensure as an LCSW include passing the Clinical Examination of the ASWB or the Clinical Social Workers Examination of the State of California.
- In accordance with Subsection 58-60-205(2)(e), the examination requirements for licensure as a CSW shall include passing the Masters, Advanced Generalist, or Clinical Examination of the ASWB.
- In accordance with Subsection 58-60-205(4)(e), the examination requirements for licensure as an SSW shall include passing the Bachelors Examination of the ASWB.
- Applicants requesting additional time to complete any ASWB exam in accordance with Subsection 58-60-205(5) shall complete an ASWB application for special arrangements approved by the Division.

Please visit <https://rules.utah.gov/publicat/code/r156/r156-60a.htm#T5> for more information.

## **Vermont**

Vermont Secretary of State  
Professional Regulation  
Social Work  
89 Main Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Montpelier, VT 05620-3402

Phone: (800) 439-8683

### **Vermont Requirements**

#### **§ 3205. Licensed *master's social worker* eligibility**

To be eligible for licensing as a licensed master's social worker, an applicant must have:

- received a master's degree or doctoral degree from an accredited social work education program; and
- within five years prior to applying for licensure, passed the examinations designated by the Director.

#### **§ 3205a. Licensed *independent clinical social worker* eligibility**

To be eligible for licensure as a licensed independent clinical social worker, an applicant must have:

- received a master's degree or doctoral degree from an accredited social work education program;
- passed the examinations designated by the Director within five years prior to applying for licensure; and
- completed 3,000 hours of supervised practice of independent clinical social work as defined by rule under the supervision of a:
  - licensed independent clinical social worker;
  - licensed clinical mental health counselor;
  - licensed psychologist;
  - licensed physician or a licensed osteopathic physician who has completed a residency in psychiatry; or
  - person licensed or certified in another state or Canada in one of these professions or their substantial equivalent.
- A person not licensed as a master's social worker who engages in post-master's supervised practice in Vermont toward licensure as a licensed independent clinical social worker shall be entered on the roster of nonlicensed, noncertified psychotherapists.
- A licensed master's social worker who engages in post-master's supervised practice in Vermont to become a licensed independent clinical social worker must first register with the Office as set forth by rule.

Please visit <https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/fullchapter/26/061> for more information.

## **Virginia**

Board of Social Work  
Perimeter Center  
9960 Maryland Drive, Suite 300  
Henrico, Virginia 23233-1463

Phone: (804) 367-4441

Contact: [socialwork@dhp.virginia.gov](mailto:socialwork@dhp.virginia.gov)

### **Virginia Requirements**

#### **Educational Requirements:**

The Board shall accept proof of the successful completion of the following as evidence of the satisfaction of the educational requirements for licensure as a *clinical social worker*:

- a master's degree in social work with a clinical course of study from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education,
- a master's degree in social work with a non-clinical concentration from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education together with successful completion of the educational requirements for a clinical course of study through a graduate program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, or
- a program of education and training in social work at an educational institution outside the United States recognized by the Council on Social Work Education. For the purposes of this section, "clinical course of study" means graduate coursework that includes specialized advanced courses in human behavior and the social environment, social justice and policy, psychopathology, and diversity issues; research; clinical practice with individuals, families, and groups; and clinical practicum that focuses on diagnostic, prevention, and treatment services.
  - a 600 hour clinical practicum that focuses on diagnostic, prevention, and treatment services

#### **Experience Requirements:**

- The applicant shall have completed a minimum of 3,000 hours of supervised post-master's degree experience in the delivery of clinical social work services and in ancillary services that support such delivery. A minimum of one hour and a maximum of four hours of face-to-face supervision shall be provided per 40 hours of work experience for a total of at least 100 hours. No more than 50 of the 100 hours may be obtained in group supervision, nor shall there be more than six persons being supervised in a group unless approved in advance by the board. The board may consider alternatives to face-to-face supervision if the applicant can demonstrate an undue burden due to hardship, disability or geography.
  - Supervised experience shall be acquired in no less than two nor more than four consecutive years.
  - Supervisees shall obtain throughout their hours of supervision a minimum of 1,380 hours of supervised experience in face-to-face client contact in the delivery of clinical social work services. The remaining hours may be spent in ancillary services supporting the delivery of clinical social work services.

**18VAC140-20-51. Requirements for licensure by examination as a *licensed social worker*.**

In order to be approved to sit for the board-approved examination for a licensed social worker, an applicant shall:

- Meet the education requirements prescribed in 18VAC140-20-60 A.
- Submit a completed application to the board office to include:
  - The application fee prescribed in 18VAC140-20-30; and
  - Official transcript or transcripts submitted from the appropriate institutions of higher education.

In order to be licensed by examination as a licensed social worker, an applicant shall:

- Meet the education and experience requirements prescribed in 18VAC140-20-60; and
- Submit, in addition to the application requirements of subsection A of this section, the following:
  - Documentation, on the appropriate forms, of the successful completion of the supervised experience requirements of 18VAC140-20-60 along with documentation of the supervisor's out-of-state license where applicable. An applicant whose former supervisor is deceased, or whose whereabouts is unknown, shall submit to the board a notarized affidavit from the present chief executive officer of the agency, corporation or partnership in which the applicant was supervised. The affidavit shall specify dates of employment, job responsibilities, supervisor's name and last known address, and the total number of hours spent by the applicant with the supervisor in face-to-face supervision;
  - Verification of a passing score on the board-approved national examination;
  - Documentation of any other health or mental health licensure or certification, if applicable; and
  - A current report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB).
- Provide evidence of passage of the examination prescribed in 18VAC140-20-70.

Please visit <https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/social/> for more information.

## **Washington**

Washington State Department of Health  
Kent Regional Office  
20425 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South, Building 2, Suite 310  
Kent, WA 98032

Phone: (800) 525-0127

### **Washington Requirements**

#### ***Licensed advanced social worker:***

- Graduation from a master's or doctorate social work educational program accredited by the council on social work education and approved by the secretary based upon nationally recognized standards;
- Successful completion of an approved examination;
- Successful completion of a supervised experience requirement. The supervised experience requirement consists of a minimum of three thousand two hundred hours with supervision by an approved supervisor who has been licensed for at least two years. Of those supervised hours:
  - At least ninety hours must include direct supervision as specified in this subsection by a licensed independent clinical social worker, a licensed advanced social worker, or an equally qualified licensed mental health professional. Of those hours of directly supervised experience:
    - At least fifty hours must include supervision by a licensed advanced social worker or licensed independent clinical social worker; the other forty hours may be supervised by an equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner; and
    - At least forty hours must be in one-to-one supervision and fifty hours may be in one-to-one supervision or group supervision;
  - Distance supervision is limited to forty supervision hours; and
  - Eight hundred hours must be in direct client contact; and
- Successful completion of continuing education requirements of thirty-six hours, with six in professional ethics.

#### ***Licensed independent clinical social worker:***

- Graduation from a master's or doctorate level social work educational program accredited by the council on social work education and approved by the secretary based upon nationally recognized standards;
- Successful completion of an approved examination;
- Successful completion of a supervised experience requirement. The supervised experience requirement consists of a minimum of four thousand hours of experience, over a period of not less than three years, with supervision by an approved supervisor who has been licensed for at least two years and, as specified in this subsection, may be either a licensed independent clinical social worker who has had at least one year of experience in supervising the clinical social work of others or an equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner. Of those supervised hours:

- At least one thousand hours must be direct client contact;
- Hours of direct supervision must include:
  - At least one hundred thirty hours by a licensed mental health practitioner;
  - At least seventy hours of supervision with a licensed independent clinical social worker meeting the qualifications under this subsection (1)(a)(ii)(C); the other sixty hours may be supervised by an equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner; and
- At least sixty hours must be in one-to-one supervision and seventy hours may be in one-to-one supervision or group supervision; and
  - Distance supervision is limited to sixty supervision hours; and
- Successful completion of continuing education requirements of thirty-six hours, with six in professional ethics.

Please visit <http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/> for more information.

## **West Virginia**

West Virginia Board of Social Work  
1124 Smith Street, Suite B 200  
Charleston, WV 25301

Phone: (304) 400-4980

Contact: [Admin@wvsocialworkboard.org](mailto:Admin@wvsocialworkboard.org)

### **West Virginia Requirements**

#### ***LSW Requirements***

- Education: Applicants seeking to become a licensed social worker (LSW) in West Virginia must possess a bachelor's degree in social work from a social work program that has been accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Proof of degree in the form of an official academic transcript must be provided to the West Virginia Board of Social Work Examiners (WVBSWE) for approval prior to licensure.
- Exam: Prior to granting of licensure, applicants must have received a passing grade in the basic level exam that is designed and administered by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB).
- Responsibilities: Upon becoming a licensed social worker, the licensee is permitted to practice social work in a number of areas. The scope of a licensed social worker can include, but is not necessarily limited to: social advocacy for clients, tasks related to community organizing and training activities that help to increase a client's social function and standard of living. It should also be noted that a candidate who has received their social work degree through an alternative educational path may apply for a provisionary license as a social worker, but they are not allowed to practice social work independently.

#### ***LGSW Requirements***

- Education: The ability to practice as a licensed graduate social worker in West Virginia is dependent on the applicant having completed a master's degree in social work from a CSWE accredited social work program and submitting proof of said degree to the WVBSWE in the form of an academic transcript.
- Exam: Upon completion of degree, applicants must sit for and pass the ASWB intermediate level exam before licensure will be granted.
- Responsibilities: In addition to performing all the duties of a licensed social worker, licensed graduate social workers may also teach social work classes to bachelor's and master's level students, as well as perform certain psychotherapeutic services under the guidance of a behavioral health specialist.

#### ***LCSW Requirements***

- Education: The licensing requirements for social work in West Virginia to become a licensed certified social worker (LCSW) include the prerequisite of completion of a master's level degree in social work. Said degree must have been attained from a social work program that has been granted accreditation by the CSWE.

- Experience: After the LCSW has completed their master's degree, they must complete at least two years of post-graduate social work experience that should take place before the applicant applies for examination.
- Exam: Candidates seeking licensure as a LCSW in West Virginia must receive a passing grade in the Advanced Generalist exam that is administered by the ASWB.
- Responsibilities: In addition to performing the duties of both a licensed social worker and a licensed graduate social worker, licensed certified social workers can apply social work theory in diagnosing and treating certain mental disorders. Additionally, licensed certified social workers may also perform behavioral health services that are related to social work.

### ***LICSW Requirements***

- Education: The educational requirement for receiving licensure as a licensed independent clinical social worker (LICSW) can be completed in three separate ways. Firstly, the applicant can have a master's degree in social work from a CSWE accredited social work program. Secondly, the applicant may have a Ph.D. Finally, the candidate may have a doctoral degree in social work from a university that has been accredited by the CSWE.
- Experience: Over a period not to exceed two years a candidate seeking licensure as a LICSW must have completed 3,000 hours of clinical work experience. 100 of these hours must have come under the direct supervision of a qualified clinical licensed social worker; 60 of the 100 hours must have taken place in either a face-to-face or group situation. Additional supervisory requirements can be found by consulting the West Virginia Board of Social Work Examiners.
- Exam: Upon completion of clinical work experience, candidates for licensed clinical social work licensure must receive a passing grade in the ASWB Clinical level examination.
- Responsibilities: In addition to performing the same duties as the previous three license types, licensed independent clinical social workers provide assessment and treatment for psychological disorders in a clinical setting. Treatment can include solutions ranging from psychotherapy and group counseling.

Please visit <http://www.wvsocialworkboard.org/LawsRules.aspx> for more information.

## Wisconsin

Department of Safety and Professional Licensing  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, WI 53705

Phone: (608) 266-2112

### Wisconsin Requirements

#### **MPSW 3.01 Application for certification as a social worker.**

In addition to paying the fee under s. 440.05 (1), Stats., an applicant for certification as a social worker shall submit a completed, signed application form together with:

- A certificate of professional education, signed and sealed by the chancellor, dean or registrar of the school from which the applicant has graduated with a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree in social work.
- Verification that the school or program which awarded the social work degree was accredited by, or a pre-accreditation program, of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) at the time the applicant graduated from the program or school, or that a degree awarded by a foreign institution of higher learning has been determined by the CSWE to be equivalent to a program accredited by the CSWE. If the applicant's education was not received in English, the applicant must demonstrate proficiency in English by achieving a score of 550 (or 213 on the computer-based exam) or above on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or an equivalent score on an equivalent examination.
- Verification of successful completion of the examination required.
- Verification of the applicant's credential in all jurisdictions in which the applicant has ever been credentialed.
- All pertinent information relating to any convictions or pending charges for all crimes and any traffic offenses which did or could result in revocation or suspension of the applicant's driver's license

#### **MPSW 3.05 Application for certification as an advanced practice social worker.**

In addition to paying the fee under s. 440.05 (1), Stats., an applicant for certification as an advanced practice social worker shall submit the completed, signed application form and:

- A certificate of professional education, signed and sealed by the chancellor, dean or registrar of the school from which the applicant has graduated with a master's or doctoral degree in social work.
- Verification that the school or program which awarded the social work degree was accredited by, or a pre-accreditation program, of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) at the time the applicant graduated from the program or school, or that a degree awarded by a foreign institution of higher learning has been determined by the CSWE to be equivalent to a program accredited by the CSWE. If the applicant's education was not received in English, the applicant must demonstrate proficiency in English by achieving a score of 550 (or 213 on the computer-based exam) or above on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or an equivalent score on an equivalent examination.
- Verification of successful completion of the examination required.

- Verification of the applicant's credential in all jurisdictions in which the applicant has ever been credentialed.
- All pertinent information relating to any convictions or pending charges for all crimes and any traffic offenses which did or could result in revocation or suspension of the applicant's driver's license

**MPSW 3.07 Application for certification as an independent social worker.**

In addition to paying the fee under s. 440.05 (1), Stats., an applicant for certification as an independent social worker shall submit the completed, signed application form and:

- A certificate of professional education, signed and sealed by the chancellor, dean or registrar of the school from which the applicant has graduated with a master's or doctoral degree in social work.
- Verification that the school or program which awarded the social work degree was accredited by, or a pre-accreditation program, of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) at the time the applicant graduated from the program or school, or that a degree awarded by a foreign institution of higher learning has been determined by the CSWE to be equivalent to a program accredited by the CSWE. If the applicant's education was not received in English, the applicant must demonstrate proficiency in English by achieving a score of 550 (or 213 on the computer-based exam) or above on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or an equivalent score on an equivalent examination.
- An affidavit that the applicant, after receiving a master's or doctoral degree and after receiving certification as an advanced practice social worker, has obtained at least 3,000 hours of social work practice in no less than 2 years under the supervision of a supervisor approved by the social worker section. Pre-certification supervised practice shall meet the criteria under s. MPSW 4.01.
- Verification of successful completion of the examination approved by the section, or verification that the applicant has obtained certification of the Academy of Certified Social Workers (ACSW) of the National Association of Social Workers.
- (5) Verification of the applicant's credential in all jurisdictions in which the applicant has ever been credentialed.
- All pertinent information relating to any convictions or pending charges for all crimes and any traffic offenses which did or could result in revocation or suspension of the applicant's driver's license

**MPSW 3.09 Application for licensure as a clinical social worker.**

In addition to paying the fee under s. 440.05 (1), Stats., an applicant for licensure as a clinical social worker shall submit the completed, signed application form and:

- A certificate of professional education, signed and sealed by the chancellor, dean or registrar of the school from which the applicant has graduated with a master's or doctoral degree in social work with a concentration in clinical social work, including completion of supervised clinical field training. In lieu of supervised clinical field training, applicants may submit an affidavit indicating that they have completed 1,500 hours of supervised clinical social work experience in not less than one year within a primary clinical setting, which includes at least 500 hours of face-to-face client contact and is supervised as provided in s. MPSW 4.01.

- Verification that the school or program which awarded the social work degree was accredited by, or a pre-accreditation program, of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) at the time the applicant graduated from the program or school, or that a degree awarded by a foreign institution of higher learning has been determined by the CSWE to be equivalent to a program accredited by the CSWE. If the applicant's education was not received in English, the applicant must demonstrate proficiency in English by achieving a score of 550 (or 213 on the computer-based exam) or above on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or an equivalent score on an equivalent examination.
- Except as provided in sub. (3m), an affidavit that the applicant, after receiving a master's or doctoral degree and after receiving certification as an advanced practice social worker or an independent social worker, has completed at least 3,000 hours of clinical social work practice in no less than 2 years, including at least 1,000 hours of face-to-face client contact and including DSM diagnosis and treatment of individuals, under the supervision of a supervisor approved by the social worker section. Pre-licensed supervised practice shall meet the criteria under s. MPSW 4.01. (3m) An applicant who after receiving a master's or doctoral degree in social work and completing any portion of the applicant's 3,000 hours of supervised clinical social work practice outside of Wisconsin in no less than 2 years may be given credit for those hours provided they included at least 1,000 hours of face-to-face client contact, or a proportionate number thereof, and also included DSM diagnosis and treatment of individuals, completed under the supervision of a supervisor acceptable to the social worker section.
- Verification of successful completion of the examination approved by the section, or verification that the applicant is a board certified diplomat (BCD) of the American Board of Examiners in clinical social work.
- Verification of the applicant's credential in all jurisdictions in which the applicant has ever been credentialed.
- All pertinent information relating to any convictions or pending charges for all crimes and any traffic offenses which did or could result in revocation or suspension of the applicant's driver's license

Please visit <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/> for more information.

## **Wyoming**

Wyoming State Mental health Professions Licensing Board  
2001 Capitol Avenue, RM 105  
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Phone: (307) 777-3508

Contact: [greg.searls@wyo.gov](mailto:greg.searls@wyo.gov)

### **Wyoming Requirements**

#### ***Certified Social Worker***

##### **Section 2. General Requirements for Certification**

- Are of majority age
- Have no felony convictions, and no misdemeanor convictions that relate adversely to the practice of clinical social work or to the ability to practice clinical social work
- Are legal inhabitants of the U.S.
- Satisfy the requirements established in these rules

##### **Section 3. Education Requirement for Certification**

- All requirements shall be met through the completion of a Council on Social Work Education accredited baccalaureate degree program in social work

##### **Section 4. Examination Requirement for Certification**

- The board shall accept passing score as established by the examination provider on ONE of the following examinations:
  - The Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) examination at the bachelor's level
  - Other examination as may be approved by the board

#### ***Licensed Clinical Social Worker***

##### **Section 2. General Requirements for Certification**

- Are of majority age
- Have no felony convictions, and no misdemeanor convictions that relate adversely to the practice of clinical social work or to the ability to practice clinical social work
- Are legal inhabitants of the U.S.
- Satisfy the requirements established in these rules

##### **Section 3. Education Requirement for Licensure**

- All educational requirements for licensure shall be met through the completion of a Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accredited master's degree program in social work

##### **Section 4. Supervised Training/Work Experience Requirement for Licensure**

- A minimum of 3,000 hours of supervised clinical training/work experience in clinical social work under the direct supervision of a designated qualified clinical supervisor is required for all applicants
- All 3,000 hours of supervised clinical training/work experience required shall be completed after the award of the graduate degree

- Of the 3,000 hours, at least 1,200 hours shall be direct client contact hours
- The balance of the remaining indirect hours shall consist of work experience that supports the direct client contact hours
- An applicant shall have a minimum of 100 post graduate hours of clinical supervision with a DQCS

**Section 5. Examination Requirement for Licensure**

- The Board shall accept a passing score as established by the examination provider of the following examination:
  - The association of Social Work Board (ASWB) examination at the Clinical Level
  - Other examinations as may be approved by the Board

Please visit <https://sites.google.com/a/wyo.gov/> for more information.