



Another record-breaking year in test administration

36,391 exams were administered in 2013, reflecting a 6.6% increase from the previous year

In another record-breaking year, the number of social work licensing exams administered in 2013 increased by 6.6% to reach 36,391. Tests were administered not only in North America but at international test centers in 2013. In the second year that this option was offered, candidates took the licensing exam in Ramat, Israel; Johannesburg, South Africa; Osaka-Shi, Japan; and Seoul, South Korea, to name a few.

Despite the increase in the number of exams administered, the pass rates for first-time test takers has remained consistent. This stability reflects positively on the validity of the exam and is a good indication of the examination's reliability. The 2013 pass rates were: Associates exam, 76.9%; Bachelors, 77.8%; Masters, 82.3%; Advanced Generalist, 75.3%; and Clinical, 77.9%. Important to note of these results is the fact that pass rates are most representative for groups of more than 200 candidates. Both the Associates exam (117 exams administered) and Advanced Generalist exam (162 exams administered) fall short of this volume.

If this was a busy year for exam administration, it was also an exceptional year for ASWB's Candidate Services Center (CSC), which handled registrations, product orders of study guides and online practice tests, requests for accommodations, and general questions from candidates about how to become licensed. The CSC answered 71,534 calls and registered 37,988 candidates in 2013. In response to a post-exam survey, candidates agreed 93.5% of the time that they were able to schedule a reservation easily and indicated a 91.6% satisfaction rate that registration went smoothly. These high ratings can be attributed to the outstanding customer service provided by ASWB's dedicated staff.

Pass rates of first-time test takers are reported because they are the most reliable measure of ability. North American pass rates can be found on [ASWB's website](#).

from
the
staff