



U.S. states with education requirements for social work licensure beyond a degree from an accredited program

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Introduction

This report identifies states that have educational requirements for social work licensure that are in addition to a qualifying degree from a program acceptable to the licensing authority. These requirements generally emphasize specific course content areas that must be fulfilled and may also include designated hours for practicum experience.

The Association of Social Work Boards maintains a [database of social work regulatory requirements](#) in the United States and Canada. To review requirements for regulated licenses, click [Detailed Reports: Compare license information](#). To review jurisdictional requirements and policies, use the link [Detailed Reports: Compare Jurisdiction Information](#). For the most current information about social work licensure requirements, visit a [jurisdiction's website or review their statutes and/or administrative rules](#).

Contact [Cara Sanner](#) with questions or comments about ASWB's online regulatory reports or the information in this report.

Summary

The educational credentials required to satisfy state social work licensure requirements center on a degree from a program recognized by the licensing authority. Nearly every state identifies degree programs accredited by the Council on Social Work Education as meeting social work licensure education requirements; however, some states may also recognize other accrediting bodies.

In general, a BSW degree is the minimum degree requirement for the Bachelors category of licensure and an MSW is the minimum degree requirement for every other licensure category.

Bachelors licensure exceptions

- Ohio specifies semester-hour requirements in several content areas and also requires at least 400 hours of supervised field experience.

Masters and/or nonclinical Masters licensure exceptions

- Florida requires that the program must emphasize direct clinical practice or agency administration
- New York identifies specific curricular content and requires at least 60 semester hours of graduate study
- South Carolina requires at least 90 academic contact hours of coursework in advanced social work practice with communities and organizations for its advanced macro practice Masters license

Clinical licensure exceptions

- Maine requires an additional period of supervision for applicants with nonclinical master's degrees
- New York requires a degree from a program in social work that is registered with the New York Education Department; applicants with a master's degree from CSWE or another recognized body requesting licensure in New York may be required to complete additional clinical coursework

- Ten states specify course content and/or field practicum experience that must be obtained as part of the graduate program or additional postgraduate studies.
 - Florida
 - Indiana
 - Kansas
 - Maryland
 - Minnesota
 - Nebraska
 - New Jersey
 - South Carolina
 - West Virginia
 - Wisconsin
- Virginia provides an alternate pathway for Clinical license applicants with a nonclinical CSWE-accredited master's degree: Applicants may satisfy education requirements by completing additional postgraduate coursework

Relevant state statutes and regulations are provided in the following section.

Licensure educational requirements beyond accredited degree, by state

Bachelors license

Ohio

Ohio Chapter 4757-19 Licensing and Registration of Social Workers

4757-19-01 Requirements for licensure as a social worker.

- (1) Six semester hours or their equivalent of coursework in the area of human development and behavior which includes: the social, psychological, and physiological growth of an individual, and the effects of growth of a personality in the social environment.
- (2) Six semester hours or their equivalent of social work practice courses taught by an individual with an advanced degree in social work. Coursework shall include methods of social intervention: casework, groupwork, community organization and practice, social research, and administration: in addition, three semester hours of coursework or its equivalent in the area of social work research shall be required.
- (3) Six semester hours or their equivalent in the social welfare and policy area. Social welfare and policy include the history of social welfare; policy development and analysis
- (4) Three semester hours or their equivalent shall be required in social work theory which includes the study of the principles, which demonstrate various types of bio-psycho-social interventions.
- (5) Not less than four hundred clock hours of supervised practicum and/or field experience, with a primary focus on social intervention coordinated by an individual with an advanced degree in social work
- (6) The program shall reflect continuous effort to enrich the educational experience by incorporating content on social work professional and legal ethics, and racial ethnic and cultural diversity as well as
- (7) women's issues into the curriculum.

- (8) Social work programs which are accredited by "The Council on Social Work Education" (CSWE) are recognized as qualifying degrees in social work.

Masters license

Florida

2019 Florida Statutes

Title XXXII Regulations of Professions and Occupations

Chapter 491 Clinical, Counseling and Psychotherapy Services

491.0145 Certified master social worker.

The department may certify an applicant for a designation as a certified master social worker upon the following conditions:

- (1) The applicant completes an application to be provided by the department and pays a nonrefundable fee not to exceed \$250 to be established by rule of the department. The completed application must be received by the department at least 60 days before the date of the examination in order for the applicant to qualify to take the scheduled exam.
- (2) The applicant submits proof satisfactory to the department that the applicant has received a doctoral degree in social work, or a master's degree with a major emphasis or specialty in clinical practice or administration, including, but not limited to, agency administration and supervision, program planning and evaluation, staff development, research, community organization, community services, social planning, and human service advocacy. Doctoral degrees must have been received from a graduate school of social work which at the time the applicant was enrolled and graduated was accredited by an accrediting agency approved by the United States Department of Education. Master's degrees must have been received from a graduate school of social work which at the time the applicant was enrolled and graduated was accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or the Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work or by one that meets comparable standards.
- (3) The applicant has had at least 3 years' experience, as defined by rule, including, but not limited to, clinical services or administrative activities as defined in subsection (2), 2 years of which must be at the post-master's level under the supervision of a person who meets the education and experience requirements for certification as a certified master social worker, as defined by rule, or licensure as a clinical social worker under this chapter. A doctoral internship may be applied toward the supervision requirement.
- (4) Any person who holds a master's degree in social work from institutions outside the United States may apply to the department for certification if the academic training in social work has been evaluated as equivalent to a degree from a school accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. Any such person shall submit a copy of the academic training from the Foreign Equivalency Determination Service of the Council on Social Work Education.
- (5) The applicant has passed an examination required by the department for this purpose. The nonrefundable fee for such examination may not exceed \$250 as set by department rule.
- (6) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to authorize a certified master social worker to provide clinical social work services.

New York

Commissioner's Regulations

Section 52.30, Social Work

- a. Programs leading to licensure in licensed master social work. In addition to meeting all applicable provisions of this Part, to be registered as a program recognized as leading to licensure in licensed master social work, which meets the requirements of subdivision (b) of section 74.1 of this Title, the program shall:
 1. be a program in social work leading to a master's degree or its equivalent, which includes at least 60 semester hours, or the equivalent, of graduate study, provided that no more than half of the total semester hours for the program may be advanced standing credit granted for social work study at the baccalaureate level;
 2. contain curricular content, including but not limited to, each of the following content areas:
 - i. social work values and ethics;
 - ii. diversity, social justice, and at-risk populations;
 - iii. human behavior in the social environment;
 - iv. social welfare policy and service delivery systems;
 - v. foundation and advanced social work practice; and
 - vi. social work practice evaluation and research;
 3. include a field practicum of at least 900 clock hours in social work integrated with the curricular content prescribed in paragraph (2) of this subdivision.

Regulations of the Commissioner

Part 74, Social Work

Section 74.1 Professional study of social work.

- a. As used in this section, acceptable accrediting agency shall mean an organization accepted by the department as a reliable authority for the purpose of accreditation at the postsecondary level, applying its criteria for granting accreditation of social work programs in a fair, consistent, and nondiscriminatory manner, such as the Council on Social Work Education, its successors, or an equivalent agency.
- b. Education requirement for licensure as a licensed master social worker. To meet the professional education requirement for licensure as a licensed master social worker, the applicant shall present satisfactory evidence of having received a master's degree, or its equivalent, in social work through completion of:
 1. a program in social work that is registered as leading to licensure in licensed master social work by the department pursuant to section 52.30 of this Title or a program in social work that is accredited by an acceptable accrediting agency or an equivalent social work program; or
 2. a program in social work located outside the United States and its territories that is recognized by the appropriate civil authorities of the jurisdiction in which the program is located as a program that prepares an applicant for the professional practice of social work, has been verified in accordance with subdivision (c) of section 59.2 of this Title, and which is determined by the department to have substantial equivalence to a program in social work registered as licensure qualifying for licensure as a licensed master social worker by the department pursuant to section 52.30 of this Title or to a program accredited by an acceptable accrediting agency.

South Carolina

South Carolina Code of Laws

Title 40 - Professions and Occupations

Chapter 63 Social Workers

Section 40-63-240. Licensure requirements; Independent Social Worker-Advanced Practice.

(B) To be licensed as an Independent Social Worker-Advanced Practice, an applicant must:

(4) 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;

(5) coursework content shall include ninety academic contact hours of coursework in advanced social work practice with communities and organizations;

Clinical license

Florida

2019 Florida Statutes

Title XXXII Regulations of Professions and Occupations

Chapter 491 Clinical, Counseling and Psychotherapy Services

491.005 Licensure by examination.

(1) CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK. Upon verification of documentation and payment of a fee not to exceed \$200, as set by board rule, plus the actual per applicant cost to the department for purchase of the examination from the American Association of State Social Worker's Boards or a similar national organization, the department shall issue a license as a clinical social worker to an applicant who the board certifies:

(a) Has submitted an application and paid the appropriate fee.

(b) 1. Has received a doctoral degree in social work from a graduate school of social work which at the time the applicant graduated was accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education or has received a master's degree in social work from a graduate school of social work which at the time the applicant graduated:

- Was accredited by the Council on Social Work Education;
- Was accredited by the Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work; or
- Has been determined to have been a program equivalent to programs approved by the Council on Social Work Education by the Foreign Equivalency Determination Service of the Council on Social Work Education. An applicant who graduated from a program at a university or college outside of the United States or Canada must present documentation of the equivalency determination from the council in order to qualify.

(b) 2. The applicant's graduate program must have emphasized direct clinical patient or client health care services, including, but not limited to, coursework in clinical social work, psychiatric social work, medical social work, social casework, psychotherapy, or group therapy. The applicant's graduate program must have included all of the following coursework:

- A supervised field placement which was part of the applicant's advanced concentration in direct practice, during which the applicant provided clinical services directly to clients.

- b. Completion of 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, and no more than one course in research, taken in a school of social work accredited or approved pursuant to subparagraph 1.
 - (b) 3. If the course title which appears on the applicant's transcript does not clearly identify the content of the coursework, the applicant shall be required to provide additional documentation, including, but not limited to, a syllabus or catalog description published for the course.
 - (c) Has had at least 2 years of clinical social work experience, which took place subsequent to completion of a graduate degree in social work at an institution meeting the accreditation requirements of this section, under the supervision of a licensed clinical social worker or the equivalent who is a qualified supervisor as determined by the board. An individual who intends to practice in Florida to satisfy clinical experience requirements must register pursuant to s. 491.0045 before commencing practice. If the applicant's graduate program was not a program which emphasized direct clinical patient or client health care services as described in subparagraph (b)2., the supervised experience requirement must take place after the applicant has completed a minimum of 15 semester hours or 22 quarter hours of the coursework required. A doctoral internship may be applied toward the clinical social work experience requirement. A licensed mental health professional must be on the premises when clinical services are provided by a registered intern in a private practice setting.
 - (d) Has passed a theory and practice examination provided by the department for this purpose.
 - (e) Has demonstrated, in a manner designated by rule of the board, knowledge of the laws and rules governing the practice of clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, and mental health counseling.
- (2) CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK.
- (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1)(b), coursework which was taken at a baccalaureate level shall not be considered toward completion of education requirements for licensure unless an official of the graduate program certifies in writing on the graduate school's stationery that a specific course, which students enrolled in the same graduate program were ordinarily required to complete at the graduate level, was waived or exempted based on completion of a similar course at the baccalaureate level. If this condition is met, the board shall apply the baccalaureate course named toward the education requirements.
 - (b) An applicant from a master's or doctoral program in social work which did not emphasize direct patient or client services may complete the clinical curriculum content requirement by returning to a graduate program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or the Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work, or to a clinical social work graduate program with comparable standards, in order to complete the education requirements for examination. However, a maximum of 6 semester or 9 quarter hours of the clinical curriculum content requirement may be completed by credit awarded for independent study coursework as defined by board rule.

Indiana

Indiana Code

Section 25-23.6 Behavioral Health and Human Services Licensing Board

25-23.6-5-2 Clinical social worker license requirements

Sec. 2. An individual who applies for a license as a clinical social worker must meet the following requirements:

- (1) Furnish satisfactory evidence to the board that the individual has received:
 - (A) a doctoral degree in social work from an eligible postsecondary educational institution that at the time of graduation was accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education; or
 - (B) at least a master's degree in social work from:
 - i. an eligible postsecondary educational institution accredited or approved for candidacy by the Council on Social Work Education; or
 - ii. a foreign school that has a program of study accredited by the Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work or a program equivalent to a program approved by the Council on Social Work Education by the Foreign Equivalency Determination Service of the Council on Social Work Education. The graduate program under this subdivision must have emphasized direct clinical or client health services as provided under section 3.1 of this chapter.

25-23.6-5-3.1 Graduate program providing clinical experience

Sec. 3.1.

- (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), a graduate program is considered to have emphasized direct clinical patient or clinic health care services if the graduate program meets the following requirements:
 - (1) Required coursework in clinical social work and related areas such as psychiatric social work, medical social work, social case work, case management, psychotherapy, group therapy, and any other coursework accepted by the board.
 - (2) Required a supervised field placement that was part of the applicant's advanced concentration in direct practice, during which the applicant provided clinical services directly to clients.
 - (3) Required completion of twenty-four (24) semester hours or thirty-seven (37) quarter hours of clinically oriented services courses in the theory and research of human behavior and social environment and practice methods. However, if the graduate degree was obtained before October 1, 1990, and the applicant submitted an application under section 3 of this chapter (before its repeal) before July 1, 1999, twenty-one (21) semester hours or thirty-one (31) quarter hours in clinically oriented services are required. Not more than six (6) semester hours or nine (9) quarter hours of the clinically oriented services courses may be from independent study coursework.
 - (4) If the applicant's transcript does not clearly identify the content of the coursework, the applicant shall submit a syllabus, a course catalog description, or other documentation that describes the coursework.
- (b) An applicant who graduated from a graduate program that did not emphasize direct patient or client services may complete the clinical curriculum requirement by returning to a graduate program allowed under section 2(1)(B) of this chapter to complete the education requirements.
- (c) Coursework that was taken at a baccalaureate level does not meet the requirements under this section unless an official of the graduate program certifies that the specific course, which a student enrolled in the same graduate program was ordinarily required to complete at the graduate level, was waived or exempted based on completion of a similar course at the baccalaureate level.

Indiana Administrative Code

Rule 3. Social Workers; Clinical Social Workers

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

Sec. 1. "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 nonaccredited program in social work or clinical social work from an institution of higher education.

Kansas

Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board Statutes

65-6306. Qualifications for licensure; baccalaureate social worker; master social worker; specialist clinical social worker; practice of licensed specialist clinical social worker; approval of colleges or universities, criteria.

- (c) The board shall issue a license in one of the social work specialties to an applicant who:
 - (1) 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;
 - (2) 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;
 - (3) has passed an examination approved by the board for this purpose; and
 - (4) has satisfied the board that the applicant is a person who merits the public trust.
- (d) (1) The board shall issue a license as a specialist clinical social worker to an applicant who:
 - (A) Has met the requirements of subsection (c);
 - (B) 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;
 - (C) 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;
 - (D) 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;
- (e) The board shall adopt rules and regulations establishing the criteria which a social work program of a college or university shall satisfy to be recognized and approved by the board under this section. The board may send a questionnaire developed by the board to any college or university conducting a social work program for which the board does not have sufficient information to determine whether the program should be recognized and approved by the board and whether the program meets the rules and regulations adopted under this section. The questionnaire providing the necessary information shall be completed and returned to the board in order for

the program to be considered for recognition and approval. The board may contract with investigative agencies, commissions, or consultants to assist the board in obtaining information about a social work program of a college or university. In entering such contracts, the authority to recognize and approve a social work program of a college or university shall remain solely with the board.

Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board Regulations

102-2-6. Program approval.

- (a) Definitions. The following terms shall be defined as follows:
- (1) "Core faculty member" means an individual who is part of the program's teaching staff and who meets the following conditions:
 - (A) Is an individual whose education, training, and experience are consistent with the individual's role within the program and are consistent with the published description of the goals, philosophy, and educational purpose of the program;
 - (B) is an individual whose primary professional employment is at the institution in which the program is housed; and
 - (C) is an individual who is identified with the program and is centrally involved in program development, decision making, and student training as demonstrated by consistent inclusion of the individual's name in public and departmental documents.
 - (2) "In residence," when used to describe a student, means that the student is present at the physical location of the institution for the purpose of completing coursework during which the student and one or more core faculty members are in face-to-face contact.
 - (3) "Primary professional employment" means a minimum of 20 hours per week of instruction, research, any other service to the institution in the course of employment, and the related administrative work.
- (b) To be recognized and approved by the board, an undergraduate or graduate social work program shall be accredited by the council on social work education or shall be in substantial compliance with all of the following standards:
- (1) The program shall have a curriculum plan that has been or will be fully implemented during the current academic year.
 - (2) The program shall have graduated a class of students or shall graduate a class of students during the current academic year.
 - (3) The social work program shall meet the following conditions:
 - (A) Have autonomy with respect to an identified budget and an established governance and administrative structure;
 - (B) have responsibility for participation in personnel recruitment, retention, promotion, and tenure decisions;
 - (C) have support staff assigned to the program; and
 - (D) have other necessary resources and authority required for the achievement of specified program objectives.
 - (4) The program shall have a field education program that is clearly incorporated as an integral component of the curriculum and the social work degree requirements. The field education program shall engage the student in supervised social work practice and experiential opportunities that apply classroom learning in the field setting.
 - (5) The program shall have a clear plan for the organization, implementation, and evaluation of the class and field curricula.
 - (6) The program shall have social work faculty advisors who are sufficiently knowledgeable about the social work program and who are available to advise social work students.

- (7) The program's written policies shall make explicit the criteria for evaluation of student academic and field performance.
 - (8) The program's written policies shall include procedures for the termination of student participation in the professional social work degree program, and each student shall be informed of these termination procedures.
 - (9) The social work program shall be contained within a college or university that is regionally accredited.
 - (10) No less than 50% of the required program coursework shall be completed "in residence" at one institution, and the field education program shall be completed at the same institution.
- (c) In addition to the standards in subsection (b) of this regulation, each undergraduate social work program that is not accredited by the council on social work education shall meet all of the following standards:
- (1) The program shall specify in the university or college course catalog that its primary educational objective is preparation for beginning professional social work practice.
 - (2) The program coursework shall be identified and described in the course catalog of the university or college.
 - (3) The program shall have a designated director whose educational credentials include either a baccalaureate or a graduate degree in social work and who holds a full-time appointment in the educational institution.
 - (4) Each program faculty member who teaches the content on social work practice and each program faculty member who coordinates the field education program shall fulfill these requirements:
 - (A) Hold a graduate degree in social work; and
 - (B) have had two or more years of professional social work practice experience.
 - (5) The core faculty shall be responsible for essential program functions, including the following duties:
 - (A) Regular design, modification, approval, implementation, and evaluation of the program curriculum and educational policies;
 - (B) systematic and continual evaluation of program results in view of the specified objectives of the program;
 - (C) teaching of social work practice courses and other social work courses;
 - (D) coordination of field education program experiences and provision of instruction for the field education program; and
 - (E) establishment and maintenance of program integrity and attainment of program visibility.
 - (6) The program director shall have primary responsibility for the coordination and educational leadership of the program and shall be provided with the time and financial resources needed to fulfill those responsibilities.
 - (7) The program shall have a minimum of two full-time, core faculty members whose primary assignment is to the program.
 - (8) The field education program provided as part of the program shall consist of a minimum of 400 clock hours successfully completed in the field setting. Except as provided by paragraph (b)(3)(ii) of K.A.R. 102-2-2a, each student participating in the field education program shall be directly supervised by an individual either licensed or academically eligible for licensure in social work in the jurisdiction in which the supervised field education program is completed.
- (d) In addition to the standards of subsection (b) of this regulation, each graduate social work education program that is not accredited by the council on social work education shall meet all of the following standards:
- (1) The program shall be an integral part of an educational institution that is institutionally accredited to award the master's or doctoral degree in social work.

- (2) The program shall specify in the university or college course catalog that it prepares graduate students for advanced social work practice.
 - (3) The educational level for which accreditation has been received shall be specified in any program documents referring to accreditation.
 - (4) The program shall have a full-time dean or director as its chief executive officer.
 - (5) The graduate program shall offer, as its basic program design, two full-time academic years of professional education that leads to a graduate degree in social work. A minimum of one academic year of the program shall be in full-time status, as defined by the educational institution.
 - (6) Each program faculty member who teaches the content on social work practice and each program faculty member who coordinates the field education program shall fulfill these requirements:
 - (A) Hold a master's degree in social work;
 - (B) have had post-master's professional social work practice experience; and
 - (C) be qualified for licensure to practice social work in the state of Kansas.
 - (7) The program faculty shall have responsibility for curriculum design, modification, approval, and implementation and for systematic, continual evaluation of the program.
 - (8) The faculty shall be responsible for educational policy in matters of admission, advising, retention, and graduation of students.
 - (9) The faculty shall be responsible for continual and systematic guidance of students through the professional educational program.
- (e) Upon request of the board, each school shall present documentation to the board that it has satisfactorily met the standards of subsection (b) and the standards of either subsection (c) or (d), as applicable.

Maine

Maine Revised Statutes

Title 32 Professions and Occupations

Chapter 83: Social Workers

Subchapter 3: Registration

§7053. Qualifications

1. 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. A master's or doctoral degree in social work or social welfare from an accredited educational institution in a clinical concentration and:
 - (1) Shall have subsequently completed 2 years of social work experience with 96 hours of consultation in a clinical setting; or
 - (2) 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 [PL 2013, c. 262, §3 (AMD).]
 - B. A master's or doctoral degree in social work in a nonclinical concentration from an accredited educational institution and:
 - (1) Shall have subsequently completed 4 years of social work experience with 192 hours of consultation in a clinical setting; or

- (2) 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. [PL 2013, c. 262, §3 (AMD).]

The board may waive up to one year of the post-master of social work, clinical experience requirement pursuant to this subsection for those candidates who demonstrate to the satisfaction of the board equivalent clinical experience prior to receiving the master's degree in social work.

The board shall issue rules in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375 defining the clinical experience required for this level of licensure.

Beginning January 1, 2020, an applicant for initial licensure shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the board successful completion of a minimum of 12 hours of coursework in family or intimate partner violence, including coursework in spousal or partner abuse that addresses screening, referral and intervention strategies, including knowledge of community resources, cultural factors, evidence-based risk assessment and same-gender abuse dynamics. An applicant may fulfill this requirement through coursework taken in fulfillment of other educational requirements for licensure or through separate coursework provided through contact hours, Internet hours or distance learning programs, as evidenced by certification from an accredited educational institution. The board shall accept certification from the accredited educational institution from which the applicant is a graduate that verifies the applicant's satisfaction of this requirement within the applicant's completed course curriculum. An applicant for initial licensure that is unable to demonstrate completion of the requirement of 12 hours of coursework at the time the initial application is submitted shall demonstrate to the board that this requirement has been fulfilled upon the applicant's first application for license renewal.

Maryland

Maryland Health Occupations

Title 19. Social Workers

Subtitle 3. Licensing

§ 19-302. Qualifications of applicants

- (e) Except as provided in § 19–302.1 of this subtitle, to obtain a certified social worker–clinical license, an applicant shall:
 - (1) Meet the requirements of subsection (a) of this section;
 - (2) Have received a master’s degree in social work and documentation of completion of 12 academic credits in clinical coursework 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

Title 10 Maryland Department of Health

Subtitle 42 Board of Social Work Examiners

Chapter 01 Regulations Governing Licensure

04 Licensure.

G. Certified Social Worker-Clinical.

- (1) The Board shall issue a certified social worker-clinical license to an applicant who has met the requirements in Health Occupations Article, §19-302(a) and (e), Annotated Code of Maryland, with documentation of clinical coursework.
- (2) An applicant for a certified social worker-clinical license shall have completed 12 academic credits of clinical coursework from an accredited program with a minimum of six of the 12 academic credits obtained in a Master's of Social Work program.

Minnesota

2020 Minnesota Statutes

148E.055 License Requirements

Subd. 5. Qualifications for licensure by examination as a licensed independent clinical social worker (LICSW).

- (A) To be licensed as a licensed independent clinical social worker, an applicant for licensure by examination must provide evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant:
 - (1) has received a graduate degree in social work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, the Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work, or a similar accreditation body that the board designates, or a doctorate in social work from an accredited university;
 - (2) has completed 360 clock hours (one semester credit hour = 15 clock hours) in the following clinical knowledge areas:
 - (i) 108 clock hours (30 percent) in differential diagnosis and biopsychosocial assessment, including normative development and psychopathology across the life span;
 - (ii) 36 clock hours (ten percent) in assessment-based clinical treatment planning with measurable goals;
 - (iii) 108 clock hours (30 percent) in clinical intervention methods informed by research and current standards of practice;
 - (iv) 18 clock hours (five percent) in evaluation methodologies;
 - (v) 72 clock hours (20 percent) in social work values and ethics, including cultural context, diversity, and social policy; and
 - (vi) 18 clock hours (five percent) in culturally specific clinical assessment and intervention;
- (8) (b) The requirement in paragraph (a), clause (2), may be satisfied through:
 - (1) 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 that the board designates; or a doctorate in social work from an accredited university. An academic institution must certify clinical clock hours in the clinical knowledge areas on a form that the board has provided to meet this requirement;
 - (2) graduate coursework from an accredited institution of higher learning. An academic institution must certify clinical clock hours in the clinical knowledge areas on a form that the board has provided to meet this requirement; or
 - (3) up to 120 continuing education hours, which the applicant may complete via continuing education independent learning as defined in section 148E.010, subdivision 7d. The applicant must include documents verifying completion of clinical clock hours in the clinical knowledge areas to meet this requirement as specified in section 148E.130, subdivision 11.

Nebraska

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure

172 NAC 94

Approved Mental Health Practice Program means an approved educational program consisting of a master's or doctoral degree, with the focus being primarily therapeutic mental health, from an institution of higher

education approved by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) or its successor; and must meet either subsection 1 or 2 as follows:

1. Accredited Programs: The program must be accredited by one of the following accrediting agencies (a program in candidacy does not meet this section):
 - a. Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE);
 - b. Council for Accreditation of Counseling and related Educational Programs (CACREP);
 - c. Council on Social Work Education (CSWE); or
 - d. American Psychological Association (APA).

The program must also include a practicum or internship as follows:

- a. For individuals who completed the practicum/internship before September 1, 1995, the practicum/internship must have been from an approved educational program.
 - b. For individuals who completed the practicum/internship after September 1, 1995, the practicum/internship must have included a minimum of 300 clock hours of direct client contact of which 150 clock hours must be face-to-face in a work setting, under the supervision of a qualified supervisor as defined in 172 NAC 81-002. Any artificial situation where a person presents a problem, such as role playing, is not acceptable; or
2. Other Programs: If the program is not accredited by the agencies identified in section 1 above, the Graduate coursework, must have an emphasis on the provision of mental health practice, and include coursework in each of the following:
 - a. A supervised practicum or internship:
 - (1) If an applicant completed the practicum/internship before September 1, 1995, the practicum/internship must have been from an approved educational program.
 - (2) If an applicant completed the practicum/internship after September 1, 1995, the practicum/internship must have included a minimum of 300 clock hours of direct client contact of which 150 clock hours must be face-to-face in a work setting, under the supervision of a qualified supervisor as defined in 172 NAC 94-002. Any artificial situation where a person presents a problem, such as role playing, is not acceptable.
 - b. Theories and Techniques: At least 6 semester hours or 9 quarter hours. Courses that cover therapeutic techniques and strategies for human behavioral intervention. This includes major contributions of the biological, behavioral, cognitive, and social sciences relevant to understanding assessment and treatment of the person and his/her environment with emphases on the social systems framework, personality theories and development through the life cycle, and their application.
 - c. Professional Ethics: At least 3 semester hours or 4.5 quarter hours. The application of ethical and legal issues to the practice. Examples are family law, codes of ethics, boundaries, peer review, record keeping, confidentiality, informed consent, and duty to warn.
 - d. Assessment Techniques: At least 3 semester hours or 4.5 quarter hours. Includes the process of collecting pertinent data about client or client systems and their environment and appraising the data as a basis for making decisions regarding treatment and/or referral.

Examples are ability to make a clinical diagnostic impression, knowledge of psychopathology, and assessment of substance abuse and other addictions.

- e. Human Growth and Development: At least 3 semester hours or 4.5 quarter hours. The integration of the psychological, sociological, and biological approaches within the life cycle. Examples are awareness of culture, gender, or human sexuality at developmental levels, human behavior (normal and abnormal), personality theory, and learning theory.
- f. Research and Evaluation: At least 3 semester hours or 4.5 quarter hours. Includes such areas as statistics or research design and development of research and demonstration proposals.
- g. Undergraduate Courses: Graduate programs accepting an undergraduate course(s) as meeting the course criteria in subsection 2b through 2f will be acceptable. The school must submit a notarized letter, on institutional letterhead, from an authorized person, i.e., the Department Chair of the program, stating the undergraduate course(s) was accepted to meet the educational requirement(s) of the master's degree.

New Hampshire

New Hampshire Administrative Code

Board of Health Practice

Part Mhp 304 Clinical Social Workers

Mhp 304.01 Educational Requirements for Clinical Social Workers.

- (a) All applicants for licensure shall have a 2-year clinical graduate degree in social work from a school approved by the Council on Social Work Education.
- (b) Coursework for a graduate degree in social work shall be primarily related to clinical social work in content as evidenced by at least 5 of the following areas of study:
 - (1) Theories of personality development, ego psychology, object relations, human behavior, and social environment;
 - (2) Methods of casework or clinical interventions, social work practice and direct practice;
 - (3) Theories of cross-cultural development, and race relations;
 - (4) Marriage and family dynamics, family systems, and therapy with children;
 - (5) Group behavior and dynamics;
 - (6) Theories of psychopathology, adaptive, and maladaptive functioning;
 - (7) Chemical dependency and substance abuse;
 - (8) Research methods, including policy practice evaluation; and
 - (9) Internship in a clinical setting, and field placement.

New Jersey

State Board of Social Work Examiners Law

45:15BB-6. Licensing of "licensed clinical social worker," "licensed social worker;" certification of social worker

- a. The board shall issue a license as a "licensed clinical social worker" to an applicant who has:
 - (1) 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;
 - (3) Satisfactorily completed minimum course requirements established by the board to ensure adequate training in methods of clinical social work practice; and

New Jersey Administrative Code

Title 13 Law and Public Safety

Chapter 44G

State Board of Social Work Examiners

13:44G-4.1 Eligibility requirements; LCSW

- b. An applicant for licensure as an LCSW shall submit the following, on forms provided by the Board:
 - 3) An official transcript indicating that the applicant:
 - i) 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 degree in social work from an accredited institution of higher education;
 - ii) Completed 12 semester hours of graduate level coursework in methods of clinical social work practice, exclusive of field placement, from an educational program accredited, or in candidacy for accreditation, by the Council on Social Work Education. The applicant shall obtain 12 credits in any of the following areas of study:
 - (1) Diagnosis and assessment in clinical social work practice;
 - (2) Models of psychotherapy or clinical practice (for example, psychodynamic, behavioral, cognitive therapies, task-centered, psychosocial, crisis intervention approaches, etc.);
 - (3) Clinical supervision and consultation; and/or
 - (4) Intervention with special populations;

New York

Commissioner's Regulations

Section 52.30, Social Work

- a. Programs leading to licensure in licensed master social work. In addition to meeting all applicable provisions of this Part, to be registered as a program recognized as leading to licensure in licensed master social work, which meets the requirements of subdivision (b) of section 74.1 of this Title, the program shall:
 - 1. be a program in social work leading to a master's degree or its equivalent, which includes at least 60 semester hours, or the equivalent, of graduate study, provided that no more than half of the total semester hours for the program may be advanced standing credit granted for social work study at the baccalaureate level;
 - 2. contain curricular content, including but not limited to, each of the following content areas:
 - i. social work values and ethics;
 - ii. diversity, social justice, and at-risk populations;
 - iii. human behavior in the social environment;
 - iv. social welfare policy and service delivery systems;
 - v. foundation and advanced social work practice; and
 - vi. social work practice evaluation and research;
 - 3. include a field practicum of at least 900 clock hours in social work integrated with the curricular content prescribed in paragraph (2) of this subdivision.
- b. Programs leading to licensure in licensed clinical social work. In addition to meeting all applicable provisions of this Part, to be registered as a program recognized as leading to licensure in licensed clinical social work, which meets the requirements of subdivision (c) of section 74.1 of this Title, the program shall:

1. be a program in social work leading to a master's degree or its equivalent, which includes at least 60 semester hours, or the equivalent, of graduate study, provided that no more than half of the total semester hours for the program may be advanced standing credit granted for social work study at the baccalaureate level;
2. contain curricular content, including but not limited to, each of the following content areas:
 - i. social work values and ethics;
 - ii. diversity, social justice, and at-risk populations;
 - iii. human behavior in the social environment;
 - iv. social welfare policy and service delivery systems;
 - v. foundation and advanced social work practice; and
 - vi. social work practice evaluation and research;
3. include a field practicum of at least 900 clock hours in social work integrated with the curricular content prescribed in paragraph (2) of this subdivision; and
4. include at least 12 semester hours or the equivalent of coursework that prepares the individual to practice as a licensed clinical social worker, by providing clinical content which emphasizes the person-in-environment perspective and knowledge and skills in the following:
 - i. diagnosis and assessment in clinical social work practice;
 - ii. clinical social work treatment; and
 - iii. clinical social work practice with general and special populations.

Regulations of the Commissioner

Part 74, Social Work

Section 74.1 Professional study of social work.

- a. As used in this section, acceptable accrediting agency shall mean an organization accepted by the department as a reliable authority for the purpose of accreditation at the postsecondary level, applying its criteria for granting accreditation of social work programs in a fair, consistent, and nondiscriminatory manner, such as the Council on Social Work Education, its successors, or an equivalent agency.
- c. Education requirement for licensure as a licensed clinical social worker.
 1. To meet the professional education requirement for licensure as a licensed clinical social worker, the candidate shall present satisfactory evidence of having received a master's degree, or its equivalent in social work through completion of:
 - i. a program in social work that is registered as leading to licensure in licensed clinical social work by the department pursuant to section 52.30 of this Title or an equivalent social work program, provided the candidate satisfactorily demonstrates completion of coursework prescribed in paragraph (2) of this subdivision; or
 - ii. a program in social work that is accredited by an acceptable accrediting agency, provided the candidate satisfactorily demonstrates completion of coursework prescribed in paragraph (2) of this subdivision; or
 - iii. a program in social work located outside the United States and its territories that is recognized by the appropriate civil authorities of the jurisdiction in which the program is located as a program that prepares an applicant for the professional practice of social work, has been verified in accordance with subdivision (c) of section 59.2 of this Title, and which is determined by the department to have substantial equivalence to a program in social work registered as leading to licensure in licensed clinical social work by the department pursuant to section 52.30 of this Title or to a program in social work accredited by an acceptable accrediting agency, provided the candidate

satisfactorily demonstrates completion of coursework prescribed in paragraph (2) of this subdivision.

2. Clinical content.

- i. A applicant must demonstrate satisfactory completion of at least 12 semester hours or the equivalent of coursework that prepares the individual to practice as a licensed clinical social worker, by providing clinical content which emphasizes the person-in-environment perspective and knowledge and skills in the following:
 - a. diagnosis and assessment in clinical social work practice;
 - b. clinical social work treatment; and
 - c. clinical social work practice with general and special populations.
- iii. The clinical content prescribed in subparagraph (i) of this paragraph must be coursework offered in a program prescribed in paragraph (1) of this subdivision. Such coursework may be taken as part of the master's degree program in social work that the candidate has completed or after completion of such program to remedy deficiencies in clinical content.

South Carolina

South Carolina Code of Laws

Title 40 - Professions and Occupations

Chapter 63 Social Workers

Section 40-63-240. Licensure requirements; Independent Social Worker-Clinical Practice.

(A) To be licensed as an Independent Social Worker-Clinical Practice, an applicant must:

- (4) 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;
- (5) coursework 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:
 - (a) psychopathology;
 - (b) psychodiagnostics;

Virginia

Chapter 37 of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia

Social Work

Section 54.1-3707.1. 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:

- (i) a master's degree in social work with a clinical course of study from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education
- (ii) 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
- (iii) 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.

Virginia Administrative Code

Title 18. Professional and Occupational Licensing

Agency 140. Board of Social Work

Chapter 20. Regulations Governing the Practice of Social Work

18VAC140-20-49. Educational requirements for a licensed clinical social worker.

- A. The applicant for licensure as a clinical social worker shall document successful completion of one of the following: (i) a master's degree in social work with a clinical course of study from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, (ii) a master's degree in social work with a nonclinical 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 (iii) 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.
- B. The requirement for a clinical practicum in a clinical course of study shall be a minimum of 600 hours, which shall be integrated with clinical course of study coursework and supervised by a person who is a licensed clinical social worker or who holds a master's or doctor's degree in social work and has a minimum of three years of experience in clinical social work services after earning the graduate degree. An applicant who has otherwise met the requirements for a clinical course of study but who did not have a minimum of 600 hours in a supervised field placement/practicum in clinical social work services may meet the requirement by obtaining an equivalent number of hours of supervised practice in clinical social work services in addition to the experience required in 18VAC140-20-50.

West Virginia

West Virginia Code

Chapter 30. Professions and Occupations

§30-30-8. License to practice as an independent clinical social worker.

To be eligible for a license to practice as an independent clinical social worker, the applicant must:

- (4) Have obtained a master's degree from a school of social work accredited by the council on social work education that included a concentration of clinically oriented coursework as defined by the board;
- (5) Have completed a supervised clinical field placement at the graduate level, or post-master's clinical training that is found by the board to be equivalent;

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Statutes

Chapter 457 Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling, and Social Work Examining Board

457.08 Social worker certificates and licenses.

(4) Clinical social worker license. The social worker section shall grant a clinical social worker license to any individual who is certified under sub. (1) and does all of the following:

- (a) Satisfies the requirements in s. 457.06.
- (b) Submits evidence satisfactory to the social worker section that he or she satisfies each of the following:
 1. The individual has received a master's degree in social work from a program accredited by, or a preaccreditation program of, the council on social work education or a doctorate degree in social work.
 2. As part of the master's or doctorate degree program specified in subd. 1. or postgraduate studies, the individual has completed a clinical social work concentration and supervised clinical field training, both of which are approved by the social worker section, except that, upon the advice of the social worker section, the examining board may promulgate rules that allow an individual to substitute a specified number of hours of supervised clinical work experience for the supervised clinical field training.