

SOCIAL WORK LICENSURES AND MORE!

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NASW ILLINOIS

THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATIONS

THE ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORK BOARDS

AND THE SOCIAL WORK EXAMINATION SERVICES

OUTLINE OF INFORMATION

- **LSW Licensure**
- **LCSW Licensure**
- **Maintaining Licensure**
- **Licensure in other states**
- **School Social Work**

LSW INFORMATION

- General Information
- Supervision Requirements
- Licensure Requirements
- Steps for Obtaining Licensure

LSW: GENERAL INFORMATION

- LSWs may engage in clinical social work practice, as long as it is not conducted in an independent practice as defined by law
 - Casework
 - Social Group work
 - Community Organization for Social Welfare
 - Social Work Research
 - Social Welfare Administration
 - Social Work Education
- LSWs are authorized to practice social work which includes social services to individuals, groups or communities in any one or more of the following fields:



LSW: THE BASICS

- In Illinois, you cannot legally call yourself a social worker without being licensed. Having an MSW or BSW alone does not make you a social worker. You must apply in writing to the Illinois Department of Financial & Professional Regulation and then pass the required exam.
- NASW offers a wide range of specialty certifications. Information is available at:
 - <http://www.socialworkers.org/credentials/list.asp>

LSW: REQUIREMENTS

- Persons wishing to obtain the LSW must:
 - Have a graduate degree from an approved accredited school of social work OR have a degree from an approved undergraduate program and complete 3 years of supervision
 - Apply for licensure in writing to the IDFPR (Illinois Department of Financial & Professional Regulation) and receive approval to register for the exam
 - Pass the authorized examination for the LSW
 - Be of good moral character

LSW: SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS

- Supervision for the LSW:
 - MSWs do not need post-graduate supervised experience and may apply to sit for the LSW masters exam immediately upon graduation

LSW: STEPS TO LICENSURE

1. Apply for the LSW Exam
2. Register for the LSW Exam
3. Prepare for the LSW Exam
4. Take the LSW Exam

LSW: APPLYING FOR THE EXAM

- Once you graduate and are ready to take the exam, visit <http://www.idfpr.com>
- Complete the Department's licensure/examination application:
 - Select New Application
 - Select Healthcare Applications
 - Select your profession, scroll to *Social Worker*
 - Select License Application forms
 - Download the Social Worker Examination Application

LSW: APPLYING FOR THE LSW EXAM

COMPLETING THE APPLICATION

- Fill out the application and be sure to make copies of all forms for your records
- Submit the completed application by mail to IDFPR along with an original transcript and a \$50 application fee. (All new applicants who have never taken the exam elsewhere should look under the examination portion)
- The last page of the ED section will be processed by the Department of Social Work's Program Assistant

LSW: REGISTERING FOR THE LSW EXAM

- After you have been approved by the Department, you will receive an examination approval letter with the instructions on how to register to sit for the examination with a Candidate Handbook.
- Visit <https://www.aswb.org/exam-candidates/exam-registration/> to register and schedule your exam. You may also call **888-579-3926** to schedule your exam.
- When registering, indicate any special accommodations you may need on the day of the test.
- Upon registering, a \$230 payment is required. This payment can be made by Visa, Mastercard, or Discover.
- DePaul's School Code is: **231200**

LSW: PREPARING FOR THE EXAM

- The key to passing is to understand the context, style and structure of examination questions
- The best strategy is to review social work content and to practice with sample multiple choice questions

LSW: PREPARING FOR THE EXAM REVIEW COURSES

- Social Work Examination Services (SWES) offer study guides that also correspond to the ASWB examination and have been revised for the current exams. For more information visit: www.swes.net
- NASW IL conducts a LSW Review Course 6-8 times per year. For more information visit: <http://www.naswil.org/education/continuinged.htm>
 - Courses are **\$225- Nonmember** **\$175- NASW Member**

LSW: TAKING THE EXAM OVERVIEW

- At your testing site you will receive a brief orientation then have 4 hours to complete the computer-administered 170 question test.
- The exam includes 4-option multiple choice questions and case vignettes with follow-up multiple choice questions.
- Candidates for the license are given four hours to answer 170 questions, but only 150 questions are scored as part of the exam and count toward passing.
- 20 questions are study questions to be rated for possible inclusion as 'real' questions in later exams. The candidate will not know if questions are part of the test, or in the process of validation.

LSW: TAKING THE EXAM ANSWERING QUESTIONS

- You should answer all the questions. Blank answers are automatically counted as wrong.
- It is a Pass/Fail
- You will be informed of your score immediately after taking the test.
- 75 is the passing score for the LSW exam in Illinois
 - *Note: This is not 75%. It is not 75 correct. There are 170 questions, each of which is weighted and 20 of which do not count. The formula for scoring differs with each exam, because no two exams are alike*

LSW: TAKING THE EXAM RETAKES

- If you do not pass, you will receive a printout with the test score and a graph indicating strengths and weaknesses. You will also receive instructions for retaking the exam.
- The test can be retaken after 90 days.
- Illinois does not limit the number of times you may take the test.
- ASWB will send your passing score to IDFPR and IDFPR will mail your license.

LCSW INFORMATION

- General Information
- Supervision Requirements
- Licensure Requirements

LCSW: GENERAL INFORMATION

- LCSWs are authorized to independently practice clinical social work in Illinois under the auspices of an employer or in private practice.

LCSW: SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS

- Persons wishing to obtain the LCSW must:
 - Complete 3,000 hours of clinical professional experience (supervised by an LCSW) after receiving their master's degree in social work from an approved program
 - OR
 - Complete 2,000 hours of satisfactory supervised clinical professional experience with a doctoral degree
- Social workers who want to get the LCSW should try to have LCSW supervision through work. If you are unable to have an LCSW supervisor through work you will need to pay privately for LCSW supervision. Supervision by someone with an LCPC, LMFT, or other non LCSW license will not count toward supervision for the LCSW

LCSW: LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS

- Apply for licensure in writing to the IDFPR and receive approval to register for the exam
- Pass the examination for the LCSW
- Be of good moral character

MAINTAINING LICENSURE: RENEWAL

- Both the LSW and the LCSW expire every two years. Regardless of when you first received your license, it always expires on November 30th of each odd-numbered year.
- If you renew after the November 30th deadline, additional fees are required, CEUs must be submitted, and your license may be suspended temporarily
- Make sure that you let IDFPR know of changes of address. This can be done online through their website. This ensures that you will be notified when your license needs renewal.

MAINTAINING LICENSURE: CEUS

- You are required to accumulate 30 CEUs every 2 years (no CEUs are required for the remainder of the first two-year period in which you are licensed). **A minimum of 3 of those 30 hours must be in ethics, and a minimum of 3 must be in cultural competence.**
- CEUs must be from a licensed provider in Illinois. NASW and DePaul's MSW program are examples of Illinois licensed social work CEU providers. If you are unsure, check the organization's IDFPR provider number (it will be a 9-digit number beginning with '159')
- You don't need to send proof of your CEUs in with your renewal form unless you're applying after the deadline or IDFPR requests it.

LICENSURE IN OTHER STATES

- Laws about licensure vary from state to state
- A list of state regulatory boards can be found on the ASWB website: <https://www.aswb.org/licenses/member-statutes-and-regulations>

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK – PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR LICENSE (PEL)

- For social workers wanting to work for school districts primarily providing social work services to students with social work services on their Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
- DePaul does not offer a PEL School Social Work program, but students can enroll in Post-MSW PEL programs at other universities
- Students must be enrolled in an approved Illinois school support personnel program for School Social Worker, have a second year school social work internship or post-master's externship, must pass basic skills test (TAP) and social work content exam, and take several specific graduate level classes like The Exceptional Child and School Social Work.
- Students may substitute a composite ACT Plus Writing score of at least 22 or composite (mathematical and critical reading) SAT score of 1030 for the TAP test within 10 years. Students who wish to do this must register online and have scores sent to ISBE.
- There are PEL Licensures for other school related professionals such as School Counselor

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK – WITHOUT A PEL LICENSE

- Social workers sometimes provide services in schools without having a PEL License.

Examples include:

- Work for a community agency contracting with the school to provide services that address social emotional learning standards for groups of student and/or clinical support for the general education students at an individual, group, classroom, or whole school level
- 8 week groups moving to different schools during the school year
- Year-long presence in the school during the school day and during after school programming for students and their families

GOOD LUCK!

