TEXAS SOCIAL WORK LICENSING

Karen Magruder, LCSW
Presentation Outline

• Why get licensed
• Types of licenses in Texas
• Changes to process in Texas
• LBSW & LMSW process
• LCSW process
• Exam info

• Other practice recognitions
• Criminal History
• License reciprocity
• Renewal/ CEUs
• Contacting the Board
DISCLAIMER

Last Updated February 2021

- Not official product of TSBSWE, BHEC or NASW
- Always contact BHEC with questions, to verify this information, and check for updates
Why do I need a license?

• Can legally call yourself a “social worker”

• “Licensed or registered social workers provide a practice backed by a legal guarantee—that service will be safe, competent, ethical, and responsible.” (ASWB, 2020, p.1)

• Significant advantage in job market

• Indicates knowledge and professionalism

• Potential stigma associated with not being licensed

Click here to search/verify an existing license
**Types of Licenses in Texas**

**Licenses**
- LBSW
  - Licensed Baccalaureate Social Worker
- LMSW
  - Licensed Master Social Worker
- LCSW
  - Licensed Clinical Social Worker

**Specialty Recognitions**
- LBSW-IPR
  - (Independent Practice Recognition)
- LMSW-IPR
- LMSW-AP
  - (no longer conferred as of 9/2017)
- LCSW-S
  - (Supervisor)
Changes to the Texas board process (Sep 1, 2020)

Before

- DSHS
- HHSC
- TSBSWE
- Many others

Now

- BHEC
  - TSBSWE
  - Psych, LMFT, LPC
How it used to be

Previous Application Process (2020)

1. Apply to the board after graduation **or** in your last semester
   a) Application packet included proof of Jurisprudence, Dean’s letter, etc.

2. Wait to get approval from board, and then

3. Apply for and take ASWB exam
New Process of LBSW and LMSW in 2021

Register for ASWB Exam

1. You now register for ASWB exam first
2. Get either
   1. Official transcripts (after graduating) or,
   2. Letter from SW program verifying in last semester send directly to info@aswb.org
3. Take exam at PearsonVue testing center

Applying for License with the Board

1. Apply using online system
2. Must have:
   1. Graduated with your degree from a CSWE-accredited university
   2. Passed ASWB exam
   3. Passed Jurisprudence exam
   4. Fingerprints
What if I’m going straight into my MSW with advanced standing status?

Do you plan to work somewhere that requires licensure *before* you graduate with MSW?

- **Yes**
  - Earn LBSW, then upgrade to LMSW

- **No**
  - Skip LBSW and go straight to LMSW
ASWB Exam Format

• Computer-based
• Multiple Choice
• 4 hours to complete
• 170 Questions
  • 150 “real” questions
  • 20 being tested for validity
    • You will never know which 20
• Passing Score depends on which version of the test you get
• Range:
  • “Easiest” = Need 107 / 150 (71%)
  • “Hardest” = Need 93 / 150 (62%)
## ASWB Exam Content

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Human Development, Diversity, &amp; Behavior</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Interventions</th>
<th>Ethics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LBSW</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LMSW</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCSW</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>19%</td>
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</table>
What if I fail the exam?

• Exam attempt & fail 1
• Wait 90 days
• Exam attempt & fail 2
• Wait 90 days
• Exam attempt & fail 3
• Apply to board for subsequent exams
  • Submit plan to the board about how you will ensure success on future tests (form forthcoming)
  • No official limit, but board approves each request on case by case basis

No more AMEC (Alternative Method of Examining Competency) (no supervision alternative)
Study Resource Options*

- Official [ASWB Practice Exam](#) ($85)
- Social Work ASWB Exam Guides by Dawn Apgar
- Free YouTube Resources
  - [Phillip Lutrell](#)
  - [Karen Magruder, LCSW](#)
  - [Rachel Haskell](#)
- Tutoring
- PocketPrep- free questions of the day
- Course prep classes

*Proceed with caution! Not official endorsements*
Existing LMSW-AP licenses can be renewed, but board is not issuing new ones.
LCSW

What you need

- Must have LMSW
- Must have job description with “assessing, diagnosing and treatment” of mental health issues
- Must be supervised by LCSW-S
  - Workplace or outside supervision
- Over the course of 24-48 months post-MSW:
  - **3,000 hours of social work experience**
    (30 hrs/week, 50 weeks a year)
  - **100 hours of supervision from a board approved LCSW-S**
    (at least 8 must be individual)
  - At least 4 hours/week must be clinical, plus 26 hrs/week of other social work duties
    - Clinical= assessing, diagnosing and treatment mental illness
LCSW

• As of February 1, 2021, no longer have to submit supervision plan to the board before starting
  • Supervision plan only goes to supervisor- they need to ensure the plan is appropriate

• After 2+ years of hours and supervision are completed:
  1. Apply to ASWB, then take the LCSW exam
  2. Apply to the board, including proof of jurisprudence, fingerprinting, etc.

• Coming soon*:
  • Apply to BHEC for the license (simultaneously)
Practice Recognitions

LBSW-IPR and LMSW-IPR

- Must have “base” license
- Similar supervision process as LCSW, but work is non-clinical
  - 24-60 months to complete
- May work under contract, bill directly for services, and bill third parties for reimbursements for non-clinical services
- Retake Jurisprudence Exam

LCSW-S*

- 2 years full time post LCSW licensure practice experience
- 40-hour training course from board-approved provider
- Additional CEU requirements (3 hours per renewal period on supervision)
- *LBSW-S and LMSW-S are also offered, but this is much less common
Doctoral Level Licenses

- NO LICENSURE FOR PHD OR DSW
- CAN MAINTAIN MASTER’S OR CLINICAL LICENSURE IF YOU GET A DOCTORATE
# License Requirement Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>License Type</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Examination</th>
<th>Experience</th>
<th>Supervision</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LBSW</td>
<td>BSW</td>
<td>Bachelors</td>
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<tr>
<td>LBSW-IPR</td>
<td>BSW</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>3,000 hours over 24-60 months post LBSW</td>
<td>100 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>LMSW</td>
<td>MSW</td>
<td>Masters</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>LMSW-IPR</td>
<td>MSW</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>3,000 hours post LMSW</td>
<td>100 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCSW</td>
<td>MSW</td>
<td>Clinical</td>
<td>3,000 hours post LMSW</td>
<td>100 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCSW-S</td>
<td>MSW</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>-Minimum 2 years post LCSW</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-40 hours of training</td>
<td></td>
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Criminal History

• What if I have a record? Can I still get a license?
  • Criminal history disclosure on licensing application

• **Criminal History evaluation**
  • $150
  • Board reviews background and provides a statement as to whether the history would preclude licensure upon graduation
  • Complete *before* pursuing degree!
License Reciprocity

Texas does not have official reciprocity

Endorsement is determined on a case-by-case basis.

Verification of Licensure in Another District
Renewing license every 2 years

Example 1: You get licensed in May and have a March birthday

Example 2: You get licensed in January and have a March birthday
Maintaining your license

**Renewal fee**
- $141 for LBSW & LMSW
- $163 for LCSW

**CEUs**
- 30 hours in 2-year period
- 6 must be ethics
- 1 in human trafficking prevention - free SOAR course

- Display license, certificate of renewal, and Code of Conduct
- Fingerprints - Coming April 2021
- Updating home address
- Inactive Status
Contacting ASWB

Contact Info

- ASWB, Attn: Texas Applications
  17126 Mountain Run Vista Court
  Culpeper, VA 22701
- Email: texas@aswb.org
- Dedicated application queue toll free number: 866-825-9580
- ASWB home page: https://www.aswb.org/
Contacting the Board

Set aside adequate time
- Wednesdays

Contact Info
- Licensing questions: licensing@bhec.texas.gov
- Enforcement/compliance: enforcement@bhec.texas.gov
- General/administrative/legal: general@bhec.texas.gov
- General questions (all BHEC): 512-305-7700
- For complaints: 800-821-3205 (24 hour)
- TX BHEC TSBSWE
  333 Guadalupe, Suite 3-900
  Austin, TX
  78701

Option to attend public meetings
YOU CAN DO IT!