



ASWB regulatory brief: Advanced standing

ASWB contacted member boards to ask for information about requirements related to advanced standing MSW degrees. Members were asked: *“If a candidate has an advanced standing degree, do you require additional information about the specific courses completed at the baccalaureate level, which were used to exempt completion of similar courses at the graduate level?”*

Members’ responses indicate any challenges advanced standing candidates may have in meeting licensing requirements lies with the Clinical license category. Eight states in particular identify specific clinical course content areas that must be completed to meet education requirements. Four states – [Florida](#), [Nebraska](#), [New Jersey](#) and [Virginia](#) – will accept advanced standing coursework completed at the BSW level, to fulfill some Clinical requirements. Four states – [Indiana](#), [Kansas](#), [Minnesota](#) and [New York](#) – require that all clinical content is taken at the graduate level. Candidates are required to provide supporting documentation and paperwork. Course requirement details are provided, starting on [Page 2](#) of this document.

[In the remaining 43 states/territories](#), education requirements do not address advanced standing MSW degrees. Either the state or territory requires only that the MSW degree is from a CSWE-accredited school or other designated institution, or the education requirements are such that there is no relevance to advanced standing.

Licensing candidates should review the application, rules and regulations of a state or territory where they intend to practice, to best understand licensing requirements and for further information. ASWB maintains links to all of [the websites of U.S. and Canadian social work regulatory boards](#) and [applicable laws](#) . The information can be found at www.aswb.org.

Individual state clinical course content requirements

Florida

Florida requires a minimum of 24 semester hours or 32 quarter hours of graduate-level coursework in theory of human behavior and practice methods, including psychopathology, as courses in clinically oriented services within an accredited school of social work program. (Only one research course may be counted toward the coursework requirement.)

If the applicant doesn't meet that requirement but was an advanced standing student, Florida will accept the clinical coursework from the bachelor's level courses. However, the applicant must have an official from the school of social work send a letter stating that the applicant was an advanced standing student. The letter must list the names of the courses the applicant took at the bachelor's level and identify what those courses are equivalent to at the master's level. The course list is required because in some schools of social work, two courses at the bachelor's level are equal to only one course at the master's level.

Indiana

None of the courses below are used in the Advance Standing Process. All of the courses listed are to be taken by applicants while in graduate school.

Indiana requires 24 semester hours or 37 quarter hours of graduate coursework; must include 3 credit hours in each of the following 7 content areas:

- Psychopathology
- Clinical practice with diverse populations
- Clinical theory and practice
- Family practice
- Group practice
- Human behavior in the social environment
- Practice evaluation (research)

Kansas

Course content hours must be completed at the graduate level without exception.

Requirements include:

Total must be at least 15 graduate hours and contain each content area. All courses must be at graduate level. Practicum courses cannot be used to meet the 15 hours of coursework. See K.S.A. 65-6306 to explain in more detail the 15 hour requirement.

- Psychopathology
- Diagnostic Assessment
- Interdisciplinary Referral and Collaboration
- Treatment Approaches
- Professional Ethics

Minnesota

Minnesota requires 360 clock hours (one semester credit hour = 15 clock hours) in the following clinical knowledge areas:

- 108 clock hours (30 percent) in differential diagnosis and biopsychosocial assessment, including normative development and psychopathology across the life span
- 36 clock hours (10 percent) in assessment-based clinical treatment planning with measurable goals
- 108 clock hours (30 percent) in clinical intervention methods informed by research and current standards of practice
- 18 clock hours (5 percent) in evaluation methodologies
- 72 clock hours (20 percent) in social work values and ethics, including cultural context, diversity, and social policy
- 18 clock hours (5 percent) in culturally specific clinical assessment and intervention

Minnesota will accept an applicant for the Licensed Graduate Social Worker (LGSW) who graduated with an MSW degree from a CSWE program with advanced standing status. However, for the Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW) license the advanced standing coursework (earned while in the BSW program) will not apply to the LICSW academic requirement of “360 clock hours in clinical knowledge areas.” So, advanced standing will be accepted for the LGSW, entry-level MSW license, but not the LICSW license.

Nebraska

Nebraska requires coursework areas as described below:

- **THEORIES AND TECHNIQUES OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION:** 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 individual development through the life cycle, and their application.
- **PROFESSIONAL ETHICS AND ORIENTATION:** 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.
- **ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUES REQUIRED FOR MENTAL HEALTH PRACTICE:** 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.

If a person is applying for a mental health practice license (MHP) and has graduated from a CSWE-accredited master's program, s/he is not required to meet the specific coursework areas.

New Jersey

New Jersey requires 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 (CSWE). The applicant shall obtain 12 credits in any of the following areas of study:

- Human behavior and the social environment
- Diagnosis and assessment in social work practice
- Models of psychotherapy or clinical practice (for example, psychodynamics, behavioral, cognitive therapies, task-centered, psychosocial, crisis intervention approaches, etc.)
- Clinical supervision and consultation
- Intervention with special populations

Course requirements can be completed at the baccalaureate level, but the courses have to be graduate-level courses, even though completed at the baccalaureate level in a program approved by the CSWE. Ordinarily these tend to be dual-degree programs.

New York

New York requires at least 12 semester hours of clinical social work content acceptable to the State Education Department. The content covers:

- Diagnosis and assessment in clinical social work process
- Clinical social work treatment
- Clinical social work practice with general and special populations

New York does not accept CSWE-accreditation for the Licensed Clinical Social Worker. For every LCSW applicant, except those who graduated from a NYS-registered program in clinical social work after 9/1/2004, Form 2 and a transcript for individual evaluation of the MSW and, if an advanced standing student, Form 2 and transcript from the BSW program is required. New York does not accept coursework completed as part of the BSW generalist program as meeting any of the Clinical requirements; that is, all clinical content must be at the graduate level, since a BSW cannot engage in a clinical diagnosis or provide psychotherapy at any time. If an applicant does not meet the education requirements for the Licensed Master Social Worker or the LCSW, New York provides the applicant with a listing of courses/internships that must be completed in an approved graduate social work program. When the deficiency is completed, that graduate program must submit Form 2 and transcript to verify the coursework and/or internship. See: http://officeofprofessions.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/1126 for more information.

New York accepts verification of an MSW degree on Form 2 from a NYS-registered or CSWE-accredited program; New York does not require a transcript, so would not know if the applicant was advanced standing or not; the school is assumed to verify the completion of appropriate coursework and 60 semester hours and at least 900 internship hours.

For an LMSW applicant from a non-CSWE program, including Canada, New York requires that Form 2 be submitted by the BSW and MSW programs, including transcripts for individual evaluation, particularly in regard to supervised internship hours.

New York does not accept a Ph.D. or DSW as meeting the education requirements for licensure; the individual must have an earned MSW degree to qualify for licensure as an LMSW or LCSW.

Virginia

Virginia allows some hours from the BSW for advanced standing applicants. (See D, below.)

Virginia Regulations Title 18 Professional and Occupational Licensing

18VAC140-20-49. Educational requirements for a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

- A. The applicant shall be a graduate of a Master or Doctor of Social Work Program in a clinical course of study. An applicant with a nonclinical concentration shall complete additional graduate-level academic coursework and field placement/practicum to meet all requirements for a clinical course of study.

- B. The minimum course requirements for a clinical course of study shall include graduate-level courses consisting of:
 1. 12 credit hours of explanatory theory
 2. 12 credit hours of practice theory
 3. 3 credit hours of psychopathology, including assessment, diagnosis, and treatment
 4. 3 credit hours of social work practice research
 5. Coursework in diversity issues, social justice, culture, and at-risk populations

- C. The requirement for a supervised field placement/practicum in clinical social work services 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.

- D. Graduates of a bachelor of social work program who earn advanced standing in the ~~masters~~master's program shall meet all minimum course requirements for a clinical course

of study, except advanced standing students may count up to six hours of explanatory theory and up to six hours of practice theory completed during the bachelor degree program toward meeting the requirements.

- E. A master of social work program shall (i) include foundation coursework common for all social work students, (ii) include advanced coursework for student specialization, and (iii) be accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. A doctor of social work program shall at a minimum: (i) meet all requirements for the advanced course requirements for a clinical course of study, and (ii) be accredited by the appropriate regional academic accrediting body (e.g., Southern Association of Colleges and Schools).

States/territories that do not require further review of candidates with advanced standing degrees

- Alaska
- Alabama
- Arizona
- Arkansas
- Connecticut
- Colorado
- District of Columbia
- Delaware
- Georgia
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Iowa
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Montana
- New Hampshire
- New Mexico
- Nevada
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Oklahoma
- Ohio
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Vermont
- Virgin Islands
- Washington
- Wisconsin
- West Virginia
- Wyoming