

Associate-Advanced & Independent Clinical Social Worker License Requirements

[Chapter 18-225 RCW](#)

[Chapter 246-809 WAC](#)

Credentialing Requirements:

Graduation from a master's or doctorate social work educational program accredited by the council on social work education.

State license verification:

Applicant lists all states where credentials are or were held, including where applicant has applied but a credential was not granted.

Personal Data Statement:

- physical and mental health status
- lack of impairment due to chemical dependency/substance abuse
- history of loss of license, certification or registration
- felony convictions
- loss or limitations of privileges
- disciplinary actions
- professional liability claims history.

Additional Information/Documents Required

- HIV/AIDS training – four hours
- If already taken the ASWB, Advanced, verification of scores must come from the testing company or verified by another state in which the applicant was credentialed
- Applicants who obtained the Board Certified Diplomat in Clinical Social Work from the American Board of Examiners in Clinical Social Work (ABECSW) or the Diplomat in Clinical Social Work (DCSW) or Qualified Clinical Social Work (QCSW) from the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) are considered to have met the education and postgraduate experience requirements to be eligible for Washington State Licensure examination.

Documentation of DCSW or QCSW must be sent directly to the department from NASW.

Process for Approving/Denying Applications

Credentialing staff review the application and supporting documents to make an initial determination on eligibility. The recommendation is based upon the requirements outlined in [RCW 18.225](#) and [WAC 246-809](#). Credentialing supervisors approve applications that don't have positive answers to personal data questions, have questionable verifying documents or are

otherwise “red flag” applications. “Red flag” applications are forwarded to the exception application process for determination by the appropriate disciplining authority. An applicant will be formally notified of a denial and has the opportunity for a hearing to appeal the decision.

Renewal and Continuing Education Requirements

Social workers must renew their license every year on or before their birthday. Thirty-six hours of continuing education (CE) with six hours in law and ethics, is due every two years. Social workers are required to submit the appropriate fee, renewal card and an affidavit of compliance with the continuing education requirement.

Beginning with the first full CE period after January 1, 2014, social workers must complete six hours of training in suicide assessment, treatment and management. The training must be repeated once every six years.