

# Licensed 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. Minimum of 4,000 hours of postgraduate, supervised experience over a minimum three-year period. 1000 hours must be in direct client contact supervised by a licensed independent clinical social worker (LICSW)

130 hours of direct supervision by a LICSW or equally licensed mental health practitioner.

## **Of the 130 hours:**

- 70 hours must be with a LICSW; the 70 hours may be in one-to-one supervision or group supervision.
- 60 hours may be with an equally qualified licensed practitioner; the 60 hours must be in one-on-one supervision.

Distance supervision is limited to 60 supervision hours.

Completion of 36 hours of continuing education, 6 of which is in professional law and ethics.

## **Exam requirements:**

The American Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) exam is required for licensing. The advanced exam is required to be a LASW.

When applying to be a licensed advanced social worker, you must take the advanced generalist exam. The advanced generalist is for social workers with an MSW and at least two years of post-degree experience in non-clinical settings.

You cannot register for the exam until we have approved your application, experience and education. Once approved, DOH will send you information on how to register for the exam. The exams are administered by appointment at test centers; there are no set test dates. You must schedule a time to take the exam. For [more information on the tests, including practice exams, see ASWB's website.](#)

## **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 – 4 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.