**School of Social Work**

Social Work Licensing in Missouri

Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. What is the purpose of a social work license?**

The purpose of licensing and certification in social work is to assist the public through identification of standards for the safe professional practice of social work. Each jurisdiction defines by law what is required for each level of social work licensure. Typically, there are several categories of practice. Social work regulatory boards in the United States generally require that social work degrees must be obtained from programs of social work that are accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) (or other nationally recognized accrediting agencies). For additional information visit: [http://www.aswb.org/SWL/licensingbasics.asp](http://www.aswb.org/SWL/licensingbasics.asp)

**Q. What licenses are available in Missouri?**

**Baccalaureate Level:**
- Licensed Baccalaureate Social Worker (LBSW)
- Licensed Baccalaureate Social Worker – Independent Practice (LBSW-IP)

**Masters Level:**
- Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW)
- Licensed Advanced Macro Social Worker (LAMSW)
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)

**Q. What are the educational requirements for licensure?**

**LBSW:** a baccalaureate degree in social work from an accredited social work degree program approved by the council of social work education (CSWE)

**LBSW-IP:** a baccalaureate degree in social work from an accredited social work degree program approved by the CSWE

**LMSW:** a master’s degree in social work from an accredited social work degree program approved by CSWE or a doctorate degree in social work

**LCSW:** a master’s degree from a college or university program of social work accredited by CSWE or a doctorate degree from a school of social work acceptable to the committee

**LAMSW:** a master’s degree from a college or university program of social work accredited by CSWE or a doctorate degree from a school of social work acceptable to the committee
Q. How soon can I apply for licensure?
You may apply for LBSW or LMSW licensure 60 days prior to graduation. The application may be downloaded at: http://pr.mo.gov/socialworkers.asp.

Q. How much does it cost to apply for licensure?
Application for Initial License:
- October - January; two year license $60.00
- February - May; one & one half year license $45.00
- June - September; one year license $30.00

Please refer to http://pr.mo.gov/socialworkers-fees.asp for the latest information.

Q. What is the required supervision or experience needed for licensure?
LBSW: No supervision or experience needed
LMSW: No supervision of experience needed
LBSW-IP, LAMSW, & LCSW: 2 years post-undergraduate supervised experience; minimum of 3,000 hours obtained in no less than 24 and no more than 48 consecutive months

Q. How can I get a list of supervisors in my area?
Fill out the Request for Supervisor Listing and return to the NASW Chapter office by fax - 573-635-6728 or send an e-mail request to: chapter@nasw-mo.org

Q. Is there any way to be ”grand-parented in” as a licensed social worker?
No. The LCSW “grand-parenting” period ended July 1, 1992.

Q. Does Missouri have reciprocity with licensure from other states?
Missouri will grant reciprocity only with states that meet exact requirements. Supervision hours, work/practice hours and the relevant ASWB exam may be accepted toward meeting the requirements if deemed equitable to Missouri standards. The State Committee for Social Workers is the only entity that has the authority to determine if reciprocity will be granted to a licensee. Refer to Rules Section 20 CSR 2263-2.060.
Q. Do Missouri’s licensed social workers have Privileged Communication?

Yes - Missouri supports the legal definition of Privileged Communication between licensed social workers and clients, except where there is a risk of public danger or a threat to the public good. "Privileged Communication" is defined as the premise and understanding between a professional and client that the information revealed by the client will not be divulged to others without expressed permission.

Q. Are provisional licenses available?

Provisional licenses are no longer available.

**Recommended MSW courses for LMSW or LCSW exam:**

All courses in the MSW curriculum will help students prepare for licensure. Additional elective courses in direct practice, especially those with a mental health focus (including courses covering the Diagnostic Statistical Manual-DSM) may be beneficial. It is also recommended that students take a licensure preparation course. Courses are offered through NASW Missouri Chapter. [http://www.nasw-mo.org/](http://www.nasw-mo.org/)

For additional information and a link to the state statute governing licensure and the corresponding rules and regulations please visit the Division of Professional Registration, State Committee for Social Workers at: [http://pr.mo.gov/socialworkers.asp](http://pr.mo.gov/socialworkers.asp)

Sources:
NASW Missouri Chapter, [http://www.nasw-mo.org/](http://www.nasw-mo.org/)
Updated 7/ 2013