

Which Licensure Exam Should I Take?

Ohio uses four exams administered by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB). The Bachelors and Masters Exams are for those eligible to become a Licensed Social Worker (LSW). The Advanced Generalist and Clinical Exams are for those eligible to become a Licensed Independent Social Worker (LISW).

To become an LSW

- **Bachelors Exam** – If you have a bachelor's degree in social work (BSW), then you are only eligible to take the Bachelors Exam. Taking this exam qualifies you to become an LSW. If you have a master's degree in social work (MSW), you are eligible to take the Bachelors Exam until January, 1, 2018, after which point master's graduates will be required to take the Masters Exam. If you have an MSW, the license obtained through the Bachelors Exam allows you to accrue supervision hours, and qualifies you to take the Advanced Generalist or Clinical Exam two years after graduation.
- **Masters Exam** – If you have an MSW, then you are eligible to take the Masters Exam. In Ohio, both the Bachelors and Masters Exams qualify for the LSW. However, other states do not except licenses granted to master's level social workers who took the Bachelors Exam. If you are considering becoming licensed in a different state, taking the Masters Exam is recommended. The license obtained through the Masters Exam allows you to accrue supervision hours, and qualifies you to take the Advanced Generalist or Clinical Exam two years after graduation.

To become an LISW

- **Advanced Generalist Exam** – If you are an LSW, then you are eligible to take the Advanced Generalist (non-clinical exam). The Advanced Generalist Exam is geared toward social work administration and macro/community practice. Many states only recognize the Clinical Exam. If you are considering becoming licensed in a different state, taking the Clinical Exam is recommended.
- **Clinical Exam** – If you are an LSW, then you are eligible to take the Clinical Exam. The Clinical Exam has a higher pass rate than the Advanced Generalist Exam. The license corresponding to the Clinical Exam is the license type most often accepted outside of Ohio. If you are considering becoming licensed in a different state, the Clinical Exam is recommended.

For more information contact the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board
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