

MSW Licensure

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State Policies

- Types of licensure varies by state
- Some, but NOT ALL, states have reciprocal licensure
- Licensure requirements generally include a combination of an MSW degree from a CSWE-accredited program and exam (LSW) and post-master's clinical experience and supervision (LCSW)
- Please review requirements for the state in which you will be seeking employment.

PA LSW Process

- **State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors**
(<https://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardsCommissions/SocialWorkersMarriageandFamilyTherapistsandProfessionalCounselors/Pages/default.aspx>)
- **Social Work License by Examination (SW) (DIRECTLY FROM THIS WEBSITE, WHICH ALSO INCLUDES OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION:**
<https://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardsCommissions/SocialWorkersMarriageandFamilyTherapistsandProfessionalCounselors/Pages/Social-Workers-Guide.aspx>):
 - The primary way to receive a Social Work license in PA by examination is to hold a Masters in Social Work (MSW) degree from a Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accredited school, and passed the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Master's Examination.
 - **A licensed social worker (SW):**
 - Holds a minimum of a master's degree in social work or social welfare;
 - Has a special knowledge of social resources, human personality and capabilities and therapeutic techniques; and
 - Uses that knowledge to help people to achieve adequate and productive personal, interpersonal and social adjustments in their individual lives, in their families or in their communities.

LSW Steps in PA

- www.pals.pa.gov website to begin application—be sure to review checklist for required forms and be sure to allow plenty of time for this process (as in, months from application to exam to initial license)
- Preparing for the exam and online course through Open SP2:
<https://platform.onlinelearning.upenn.edu/offering/licensed-social-worker-lsw-exam-preparation-a0Q2E00000JnjMeUAJ> ; get waiver code from Mai Le (mtle@upenn.edu)
- High pass rates for SP2 MSW graduates; recent data regarding disparities in pass rates and current actions
- Apps: Apgar's ASWB Series Licensure Exam Prep; MSW Pocket Prep; and new one: ASWB Exam Prep 2022
- Exam website: <https://www.aswb.org/>
- SP2 website for licensure information: <https://www.sp2.upenn.edu/cpdevelopment/>

Questions???

Thank you!