

The Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) does not have reciprocity with any other state licensing board. Any applicant, whether licensed or unlicensed, will need to meet all requirements mandated by California law prior to being issued a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) license. The application process for an out-of-state applicant, as well as the qualifications required, may differ depending on the following:

1. Whether you are licensed at an equivalent level in another state, and for how long;
2. The amount of supervised experience you have completed and whether it is substantially equivalent to California's requirements; and
3. Whether you have passed the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Clinical Level Exam.

The information in this document is a summary and is provided only as a general guide.

**For more information, see the “Application Instructions” section of the *LCSW Application for Licensure and Examination*.** For more information about requirements pertaining to LCSW licensure, see the Board's [Statutes and Regulations](#).

For questions about **educational** requirements, contact: [bbs.asw@dca.ca.gov](mailto:bbs.asw@dca.ca.gov)

For questions about supervised **experience** requirements, contact: [bbs.lcsw@dca.ca.gov](mailto:bbs.lcsw@dca.ca.gov)

## **EDUCATION, SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE AND EXAMINATIONS**

- **Education:** You are required to have an MSW degree from a school approved by the Council on Social Work Education, and must provide proof of completion of the coursework listed on the following page with your *Application for Licensure and Examination*.
- **Experience:** Applicants who currently hold an active license at the equivalent level in another state, and who have held that license for at least four (4) years, do not need to provide documentation of experience. All other applicants must meet California's supervised experience requirement of 3,200 hours gained over a minimum of two (2) years. Experience in California must be gained as a registered Associate Clinical Social Worker (ASW).
  - **Credit for Time Actively Licensed:** If you hold an equivalent license in another state and need additional experience to meet California's requirements, you may count up to 100 hours for every month licensed toward the supervised experience requirement, for a maximum of 1,200 hours. These hours do not need to be verified.
- **Examination:** You will be required to pass the LCSW California Law and Ethics Exam. You may take this exam upon registration as an ASW or upon approval of your licensing application. After passing the Law and Ethics Exam, you will be required to pass the ASWB Clinical Level Exam. If you have already passed this exam, please follow the instructions in the *Application for Licensure and Examination*.

# LCSW OUT-OF-STATE - ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK

The courses listed below may be taken from a school that holds a regional or national institutional accreditation recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, a school approved by the California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE), or an acceptable continuing education provider. See [Statutes and Regulations](#) for required content.

*Note: 1 semester unit = 15 hours; 1 quarter unit = 10 hours*

| Course  | Length   | Content Required  |
|---|----------|---|
| <b>1. Child Abuse Assessment and Reporting in California</b>  | 7 hours  | See Business and Professions Code (BPC) section 28  |
| <b>2. Human Sexuality</b>   | 10 hours | Instruction must include the study of the physiological, psychological, and social cultural variables associated with sexual behavior, gender identity, and the assessment and treatment of psychosexual dysfunction.   |
| <b>3. Alcoholism and Chemical Substance Abuse &amp; Dependency</b>  | 15 hours | See Title 16, California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 1810   |
| <b>4. Aging, Long Term Care and Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse</b><br><br><i>Required <u>only</u> of applicants who entered a MSW program after 01/01/2004</i> | 10 hours | Instruction must cover aging and long-term care, including biological, social, cognitive and psychological aspects of aging, as well as instruction on the assessment and reporting of, as well as treatment related to, elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect. |
| <b>5. California Law and Professional Ethics</b>  | 18 hours | See BPC section 4996.17   |
| <b>6. Spousal/Partner Abuse Assessment, Detection and Intervention</b>  | 15 hours | Instruction must cover spousal and partner abuse assessment, detection, intervention strategies, and same-gender abuse dynamics.  |