

IMPORTANT

- **REGISTRANTS MUST TAKE A CALIFORNIA LAW AND ETHICS EXAM:**

Those who hold an ASW, AMFT, or APCC registration will be required to take a California Law and Ethics exam a minimum of one time per renewal cycle until the exam has been passed.

- **PASSING SCORE REQUIRED FOR SUBSEQUENT REGISTRATIONS:**

Applicants will NOT be able to obtain a subsequent (2nd or 3rd) ASW, AMFT or APCC registration without first passing the California Law and Ethics exam.

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1. What is an ASW, AMFT, or APCC?

ASW: Associate Clinical Social Worker
AMFT: Associate Marriage Family Therapist
APCC: Associate Professional Clinical Counselor

Individuals must hold an Associate registration while gaining hours of supervised experience toward licensure, and while providing clinical mental health services prior to licensure.

2. Who is eligible to take the California Law and Ethics Exam?

Any ASW, AMFT, or APCC who has a current, delinquent, or cancelled registration status is eligible to take the California Law and Ethics exam.

3. What if I do not have an ASW, AMFT, or APCC registration?

You may obtain California Law and Ethics exam eligibility if you are an out-of-state applicant and submit the LCSW, LMFT, or LPCC *Application for Licensure* and receive approval.

4. I hold multiple registrations. Do I need to take a California Law and Ethics exam for each registration?

Yes, you will be required to take a separate California Law and Ethics exam for each registration you hold. This is because California Law and Ethics exams differ by license type.

- ASWs will take the LCSW Law and Ethics exam
- AMFTs will take the LMFT Law and Ethics exam
- APCCs will take the LPCC Law and Ethics exam

5. Are all registrants required to take the California Law and Ethics exam?

Yes, if you hold an ASW, AMFT or APCC registration you are required to take the exam a minimum of one time per renewal cycle in order to renew, until you pass the exam. If you hold more than one type of registration, you must take the exam that pertains to your registration type in order to renew that registration.

6. What is a renewal cycle?

A renewal cycle is the one-year period that spans from the registration's effective date (or most recent expiration date) to the current expiration date. Example: Registration expires 01/31/23 - renewal cycle is from 02/01/22 to 01/31/23.

7. What name must I use when taking the California Law and Ethics exam?

The first, last, and suffix on file with the Board must match the name on your current government issued photo ID. A middle name is not required and will not be used for

entrance to the exam site. If the first, last, or suffix do not match, you will need to submit a Name Change application to the Board. Be sure to allow 4 – 6 weeks for processing. The application can be found on the Board's [website](#) (access at [www.bbs.ca.gov>Licensees>Manage License/Registration](http://www.bbs.ca.gov/Licensees/ManageLicense/Registration)).

8. How do I apply for the California Law and Ethics exam?

Any registrant who holds a current, delinquent, or cancelled ASW, AMFT, or APCC can apply online for their INITIAL California Law and Ethics exam at any time. If you are applying for licensure and do NOT hold an ASW, AMFT or APCC registration, follow the instructions in the licensing application packet.

- If you have never applied for the California Law and Ethics exam, submit your INITIAL California Law and Ethics exam application online at www.breeze.ca.gov.
- If you failed or were a no show to the California Law and Ethics exam, you can submit the RE-EXAMINATION California Law and Ethics exam application online at www.breeze.ca.gov.

9. Why am I receiving an error message when applying online for the California Law and Ethics exam?

If you receive an error message, it may be because you submitted an application for an INITIAL EXAMINATION and not for RE-EXAMINATION. Please retry and ensure that you are submitting the RE-EXAMINATION application. Should you continue to experience problems, e-mail the exam unit at bbsexamunit@dca.ca.gov. When e-mailing, please provide your name, registration number, file number, or CABBS ID, and your question.

10. How will I be notified that I am eligible to take the California Law and Ethics exam?

All exam approvals will be sent via e-mail from the exam vendor, Pearson Vue. If you do not have an e-mail address on file with the Board, or if you need to change the e-mail address, you will need to submit the Change of Address application online at www.breeze.ca.gov.

11. How do I schedule the Law and Ethics exam?

Upon approval of your initial Law and Ethics exam application or your re-exam application, you will receive an e-mail from the exam vendor, Pearson Vue. Exam scheduling is available at www.pearsonvue.com/cabbs with your CABBS ID.

Important: If you have approved exam accommodations, you must schedule by phone at 800-466-0450.

12. How do I apply for exam accommodations?

Board staff can assist with English as a Second Language (ESL) accommodation. The application can be found on the Board's [website](#) (access at www.bbs.ca.gov> Exams>[select your license type]).

All other accommodations are provided through the exam vendor, Pearson Vue. To request non-ESL accommodations, please go to Pearson Vue's [website](#) (access at <https://home.pearsonvue.com>>Take a Test>Test Accommodations).

Important: Do not schedule your exam until your accommodation has been approved. Otherwise, you will not receive the accommodation.

13. If I am an associate, why am I taking a licensing exam?

The California Law and Ethics Exam is one of two exams required for licensure. As an Associate, by law you are required to take the first exam, California Law and Ethics, to meet the renewal requirement.

14. What happens if I don't take the California Law and Ethics exam before my registration's expiration date?

Your registration will NOT be permitted to renew until you have taken the California Law and Ethics exam.

15. What if I don't pass the California Law and Ethics Exam before my registration expires?

If you have taken the exam a minimum of one time during your renewal cycle, you have met the exam requirement for renewal. You are not required to pass the exam, except to qualify for obtaining a subsequent registration, or to obtain your license.

16. What happens if I submit my renewal early and haven't yet taken the California Law and Ethics Exam?

If you submit your registration renewal prior to your registration's expiration date, your registration will not renew until the Board is notified that you have taken the California Law and Ethics Exam.

17. Once I take the California Law and Ethics Exam how long will it take for my registration to update?

The Board receives exam results within 24 - 48 hours of the exam date. If a complete renewal application has been received, your renewal will update as soon as the exam results are received by the Board.

18. What happens if I don't pass the California Law and Ethics Exam?

You may apply for re-examination immediately. However, you may not retake the exam until a minimum of 90 days has passed from the date of your last exam.

19. What is the waiting period between exam attempts? How many attempts will I have to pass the California Law and Ethics Exam during a renewal cycle?

You will be eligible to re-take the after a 90-day waiting period, so long as an application for California Law and Ethics Re-exam and fee has been submitted to the Board. You will have at least three (3) opportunities to pass the exam during each renewal cycle. To obtain the maximum number of attempts, you must submit a California Law and Ethics re-exam application and fee to the Board in a timely manner.

20. Why is there a 90-day waiting period between the California Law and Ethics exams?

To ensure you do not see the same California Law and Ethics Exam, there is a 90-day waiting period to ensure you receive a new version of the exam.

21. What if I was a No-Show for the California Law and Ethics Exam?

A no-show result will not be considered as an exam attempt to meet the renewal requirement. To take the exam and renew your registration, you will need to submit the California Law and Ethics **Re-exam** application and fee online at www.breeze.ca.gov.

22. If I was a No-Show, do I need to wait the 90-day waiting period to re-take the California Law and Ethics Exam?

No, since you did not see the California Law and Ethics Exam, you will not be required to wait the 90-day waiting period. You will be approved for the exam upon acceptance of your re-exam application and fee.

23. How do I apply for the California Law and Ethics Re-exam?

The California Law and Ethics Re-exam application is available for online submission at www.breeze.ca.gov.

24. Is a 12-hour course in California Law and Ethics required for re-exam?

Effective January 1, 2023, a 12-hour law and ethics course is no longer required for a re-exam.

25. Do I have to pass the California Law and Ethics Exam to be issued a subsequent registration?

Yes. By law, a subsequent registration cannot be issued until you pass the California Law and Ethics Exam. To apply for a subsequent registration, submit the appropriate subsequent registration application found at www.bbs.ca.gov.

26. What happens if I haven't passed the California Law and Ethics Exam by my registration's 6-year time limit?

By law, a registration cannot be renewed beyond six years from the last day of the month during which it was issued. Your registration cannot be renewed if you have not passed within this time frame. A subsequent registration cannot be issued until the Law and Ethics Exam is passed. There are no exceptions.

27. What happens once I pass the California Law and Ethics Exam?

If you are still earning hours of supervised experience, you will continue as a registrant. Once you have met all education and experience requirements, you will submit an *Application for Licensure*. Once your application has been accepted, you will receive an approval letter from the Board.

Upon receipt of your approval letter, you will then apply for the *Clinical Exam* to the appropriate entity for your license type. It is important to remember you must take the exam within one year of your approval to avoid application abandonment, which could have major consequences (see question 30 for more information). You will be required to take and pass either a California clinical or National clinical exam, as indicated below:

- LMFT: California Clinical Exam
- LCSW: Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Clinical Exam
- LPCC: National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC)
National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Exam (NCMHCE)

28. What if I am an ASW or AMFT and previously passed the Standard Written exam?

The Standard Written exam was only valid for seven years. You will be required to take the current California Law and Ethics exam.

29. Will my California Law and Ethics Exam pass result ever expire?

Once you pass the California Law and Ethics Exam, you will not be required to retake it. However, if you have taken and not passed the LCSW clinical exam (ASWB), LMFT California Clinical Exam, or LPCC clinical exam (NCMHCE) within seven years from your first attempt, you will be required to take and pass the current California Law and Ethics in order to be eligible to retake the clinical exam.

30. I am an ASW, AMFT, or APCC who has had their supervised experience approved, but I have not passed the California Law and Ethics Exam. Do I have a time limit for taking the exam? What happens if I don't meet the time limit?

As per Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 1806, it states in part that you must take an exam within one year of initial approval or within one year of a failed attempt. If you do not test within that one year, your application will be considered abandoned. To continue in the licensure process you would be required to submit a new application for licensure and fee. In addition, abandonment could result in losing experience hours if they are over 6 years old at the time you submit your new application.

Please note that the California Law and Ethics Exam eligibility end date may be different than the eligibility date based on the approval of your *Application for Licensure*. Be sure to meet the time frames in the law referenced above to ensure your application is not abandoned.

31. I am not an ASW, AMFT, or APCC and have been approved for the California Law and Ethics Exam. Do I have a time limit for taking the exam?

As per Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 1806, it states in part that you must take an exam within one-year of initial approval or within one-year of a failed attempt. Otherwise, your application will be considered abandoned (see prior question for information about the consequences of abandonment).

32. Is there an exam candidate handbook?

The exam candidate handbooks can be found at www.pearsonvue.com/cabbs.

33. Does the Board provide study materials or course recommendations?

The Board does not provide study materials and cannot recommend courses. The exam content outlines and sample questions can be found in the exam candidate handbooks at www.pearsonvue.com/cabbs.

34. Who can I contact for exam questions?

Board exam staff is available for e-mail communication at bbsexamunit@dca.ca.gov. When e-mailing, please provide your name, registration number, file number, or CABBS ID, and your question.