



## School Social Work Licensing Questions and Answers

View the requirements for first professional license from the Office of the Revisor Web page at:  
<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/?id=8710.6300>

*Note: For purposes of teacher testing requirements, school social workers are **not** considered teachers and are therefore not subject to teacher licensure testing requirements.*

### To practice school social work in Minnesota, the following are required:

1. Graduation with a baccalaureate or a master's degree from an accredited social work program;
2. Social workers must pass the national, multiple-choice examination provided by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) comparable examination as determined by the Board in order to work in schools. (City, county and state employed social workers are exempt from this examination requirement);
3. Licensure by the Minnesota Board of Social Work; and
4. Licensure as a Teacher/Related Service through Minnesota Department of Education.

### Which colleges or universities offer an accredited social work program?

For a complete listing, please visit the Minnesota School Social Workers Association website at:  
<http://www.msswa.org/programs.html>

### For which license am I eligible through the Minnesota Board of Social Work after I complete my program's course work and requirements?

If you are graduating with a baccalaureate degree from an accredited social work program you will need to apply to take the bachelors exam offered through ASWB. After you pass the exam you will apply to become a Licensed Social Worker through the Minnesota Board of Social Work. If you are graduating with a master's degree from an accredited social work program you will need to apply to take the masters exam offered through ASWB. After you pass the exam you will apply to become a Licensed Graduate Social Worker through the Minnesota Board of Social Work. For more information about taking the exam, please visit ASWB website at: <http://www.aswb.org/SWLE/faqs.asp#HowToRegister>. There is also a handbook available for download that has complete information for the exam process. For initial licensing requirements, please visit the Minnesota Board of Social Work website at:  
<http://www.socialwork.state.mn.us/LicenseesApplicants/InitialLicenseRequirements/tabid/83/Default.aspx>

### How do I obtain my School Social Work License?

For a copy of the application instructions please visit the Minnesota Department of Education website at: <http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/EdExc/Licen/index.html> and scroll down to Apply for New Teacher License. Click on New License Instructions and Registration Guide. Please see page 6 for Related Services Licensure including School Social Workers. As part of the application process you will be

required to have a criminal background check completed including a fingerprint check. Contact your local law enforcement agency for hours and any fees they may charge for this service. The Minnesota Department of Education has an online licensing system available for your convenience.

*For more information on School Social Work, please visit the Minnesota School Social Workers Association website at: [www.msswa.org](http://www.msswa.org)*