

Frequently Asked Questions

Social Work Licensure Exam Policy Change – Clinical and Advanced Generalist Exams

February 9, 2016

General Clarification:

The change in the Social Work exam policy announced on February 9, 2016 affects only exam eligibility. Persons who have passed either the Clinical or Advanced Generalist exam are not affected by the change in policy. The change in policy affects only the following: (1) those persons who are in their last term of an MSW program; and (2) those persons with an MSW degree who have not yet taken the Clinical or Advanced Generalist Exam OR completed two years of supervised, post-MSW experience as an LSW.

Questions (answers are in **bold** text)

1. I passed the ASWB Clinical Exam last year; do I have to retake the exam based on this policy change? I passed the exam a few years ago. I haven't been able to find a supervisor. Will I have to take the exam again?
No. Exam results are accepted for up to seven years. Please check with the Board before re-applying to take the exam if you took the exam more than seven years ago.
2. I passed the Clinical Exam and am currently earning supervised hours. Will I have to retake the exam after June 30, 2016 since I do not yet have all of my supervised hours?
No. You are not required to re-take the exam. Continue to earn supervised hours and complete an LISW application once you have completed 3000 hours of supervised work and 150 hours of supervision.
3. Do I have to complete all of my supervised hours by 6/30/16?
The 6/30/2016 deadline is only applicable to persons who are in their last term of an MSW program or those persons with an MSW, but who have yet to take the exam OR complete two years of supervised, post-MSW experience as an LSW, are affected by the change.
4. Once approved to take the exam, how long do I have to take it?
Exam approvals are valid for 6 months from the date of issuance.
5. How soon after failing an exam may I retake it?
You may take the exam again within 90 days.
6. I am in the last semester of my MSW program. I am not currently an LSW. Should I take the Clinical or the Bachelor's exam?
Which exam you take is not a decision the Board can make for you. Please keep in mind that regardless of which exam you take, you will be licensed as an LSW. Your scope of practice will not be affected by passage of the Clinical or Advanced Generalist exam.
7. I passed the exam and have been earning supervised hours. My supervision has not been consistent. Will I have to start over?

Provided you have documented the supervision and your supervisor (s) complete a Professional Employment Reference (PER), the supervision hours you earned can be used toward your LISW.

8. Why doesn't Ohio require the Master's exam?

Ohio currently has two levels of Social Work licensure. Use of the Master's exam would require the creation of a third level of licensure, necessitating the development of a separate scope of practice. Given the nature of the scopes of practice for both the LSW and LISW, the addition of a Master's of Social Work scope would likely require changes that would negatively impact the provision of Social Work in Ohio by changing the scope of practice for LSWs.