

Social Work Licensing in Oregon

Oregon Board of Licensed Social Workers

February 2021

Randy Harnisch, Executive Director BLSW

The mission of the Board of Licensed Social Workers is to
**“protect the citizens of
Oregon through the
licensing and regulation of
social workers.”**

Total Licensed Social Workers

- Registered Baccalaureate Social Worker – RBSW
 - ~40 RBSW licensees
- Licensed Master Social Worker – LMSW
 - ~320 LMSW licensees
- Clinical Social Worker Associate – CSWA
 - ~1450 CSWA licensees
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker – LCSW
 - ~5200 LCSW licensees

Social Work Licensing Requirements

- Education
 - Master of Social Work or Bachelor of Social Work degree from a Council of Social Work Education accredited school
- Experience
 - For clinical licenses, a period of supervised employment
 - Passing score on national exam
- Safety
 - Background check

Two mandatory and two optional licenses

- CSWA or LCSW required to practice clinical social work in Oregon
- Either license gives licensee the authority to use the professional title “Social Worker”
- RBSW and LMSW are optional, but do not give the licensee the ability to practice clinical social work.
- Either license gives the licensee the authority to use the professional title “Social Worker”

Licensing Process – Application Requirements

- 1) A Master of Social Work degree (CSWA, LMSW, LCSW) or Bachelor of Social Work degree (RBSW)
- 2) Passing score on appropriate national exam
- 3) Passing score on the BLSW Rules and Laws exam
- 4) For CSWA, an approved plan of supervision or a completed plan of supervision
- 5) Background check
- 6) Fees

Plan of Supervision - Approval

- Approved supervisor – must have clinical license, at least 2 years experience, recent Oregon rules/laws exam and specific supervision training
- Appropriate work site – must occur at an “agency”
- Regular supervision meetings – must occur at least 2 times per month, each meeting for at least an hour
- Regular status reporting – status reports must be submitted every six months

Plan of Supervision - Completion

- CSWA must work under an approved Plan of Supervision for at least 2 years
- CSWA must accrue at least 3500 work experience hours that are social work-related
- Of the 3500 total work experience hours, at least 2000 must be “direct client” clinical social work
- CSWA must accrue at least 100 hours meeting with the supervisor

National Examination – Administered by Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB)

- RBSW must pass Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Bachelor-level exam
- LMSW must pass ASWB Master-level exam
- LCSW must pass ASWB Clinical-level exam
- CSWA must work under an approved plan for at least 2 years (ASWB requirement) and have completed at least 75 hours of the required 100 hours supervision meetings to be approved to take the LCSW exam

Initial License and Renewal Fees

- RBSW Initial License - \$150 for two years
 - Renewal \$110 for two years
- LMSW Initial License - \$200 for two years
 - Renewal \$220 for two years
- CSWA Initial License - \$260 for one year
 - Renewal \$66 for one year
- LCSW Initial License - \$460 for two years
 - Renewal \$286 for two years

Contact the Board of Licensed Social Workers

*It is the duty of
government to make
it difficult for people
to do wrong, easy to
do right.*

William E. Gladstone

Email:

Oregon.bls@Oregon.gov

Randy.harnisch@Oregon.gov

Phone:

(503) 378-5735 or (503) 373-1163

Website:

www.oregon.gov/BLSW/Pages/index.aspx