National Association of Social Workers, Colorado Chapter

Colorado Licensure Flow Chart – LSW & LCSW

All links/pages mentioned can be found at the NASWCO Chapter Website under the Licensure Menu in LSW&LCSW or Jurisprudence Help

STEP ONE:

After receiving a master’s degree from an approved CSWE graduate program, take the mental health Jurisprudence Exam and complete the DORA LSW application.

The Jurisprudence Exam is an on-line state exam that tests knowledge of the laws and ethical standards that regulate the practice of Social Work in Colorado. To prepare, consider participating in a Jurisprudence Info Session offered by the Chapter. You should also review the ‘Jurisprudence Help’ page on the Chapter Website. To take the Jurisprudence Exam, follow the link from the same web page. If you fail the Jurisprudence Exam, you can re-take it every 10 days.

Submit to DORA: application & affidavit, licensing fee, official transcripts, and jurisprudence exam results sheet.

Wait for Verification from DORA to take ASWB Exam
LSW Applications kept on file for 1 year
LCSW Application kept on file for 5 years

STEP TWO:

Once verification is received from DORA, determine which exam you are going to take and register for the exam with the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB). More information about the ASWB test, including a candidate handbook, is linked from the Chapter Website. ASWB offers four exams:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Fee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor</td>
<td>$230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master (accepted for LSW in Colorado)</td>
<td>$230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Generalist (accepted for LSW and LCSW in Colorado)</td>
<td>$260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical (accepted for LSW and LCSW in Colorado)</td>
<td>$260</td>
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*If you fail any of the tests, you must wait 90 days to retest

Note:

You must have an LSW* to begin counting clinical hours toward your LCSW. (*or be a Registered Unlicensed Psychotherapist or have a Provisional License).
STEP THREE:

Once you have verification of your LSW license from DORA, you may begin to count experience and supervision hours. Complete 3,360 hours concurrent with at least 96 hours of clinical supervision over a minimum of two years and a maximum of five years. 48 of the 96 supervision hours must be face to face individual supervision. The remainder may be group supervision rendered to not more than ten individuals at a time. For detailed explanation of the hours, see Rule 14 (attached) on the link to the DORA Rules. A clinical supervisor must hold a current Colorado State LCSW and be in good standing with DORA.

STEP FOUR:

Apply for LCSW. After completion of all experience and supervision hours, submit the application and other paperwork. This includes the “Post Degree Experience and Supervision Form” signed by your supervisor - must be original form, copies not accepted. If needed, take the Advanced Generalist or Clinical Exam with ASWB. The Healthcare Professions Profile also must be completed at the time of application.

Estimated Costs for LCSW:
$18.00 Jurisprudence Exam
$160.00 LSW Application Fee
$230.00 ASWB Testing Fee for Masters Level Exam
$000.00 Supervision Cost (if applicable)
$160.00 Application for LCSW
$260.00 ASWB Testing Fee for Adv Generalist or Clinical Exam (if not previously taken)
$828.00 plus supervision fee with both ASWB exams
$598.00 plus supervision fee with only one exam

- If you take the Advanced Generalist or Clinical exam for your LSW and pass the exam, you do not have to retest once you finish experience and supervision hours
- If you take the Master’s level exam for your LSW, you will also be required to take the Advanced Generalist or Clinical exam after your supervision and experience hours are complete to obtain your LCSW
- Passing either the Advanced Generalist or Clinical exam for your LSW will save you the cost and time of having to take an additional exam for your LCSW
- The Advanced Generalist exam does not easily transfer to other states because many other states only accept the Clinical exam for the LCSW
- If you are planning to practice in another state, check with the licensing board in that state
Rule 14-C-1 that defines experience hours for LCSW:

(C) The post degree hours required under 17(c)(4)(B) above must meet the following requirements;

(1) Clinical social work practice for LCSW licensure (as noted in 12-43-409):
   a) At minimum, half of the work experience hours (1,680) must include a professional relationship that involves treatment, diagnosis, testing, assessment, or counseling. One or more may occur during any of the following activities:

   • Assisting individuals or groups to alleviate mental disorders;
   • understanding unconscious or conscious motivation;
   • resolving emotional, relationship, or attitudinal conflicts; or
   • modifying behaviors that interfere with effective emotional, biopsychosocial or intellectual functioning.