

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

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Outline

- ▣ Continuing education requirements
- ▣ Acceptable subjects and education activities
- ▣ Compliance (lapse in practice, adjustments & conditional registration)
- ▣ Continuing education providers
- ▣ Recordkeeping and reporting
- ▣ Questions and answers.

Why do I need continuing education?

- ▣ Social work practice has changed dramatically and the knowledge, skills and abilities of LMSWs and LCSWs must meet the challenge.
- ▣ For years, every jurisdiction in the U.S. and Canada - except New York--has required licensees to complete continuing education.
- ▣ Legislation was enacted in the fall of 2013 that will require every Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) and Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) to complete acceptable continuing education after January 1, 2015 to register one's license for the next three-year period.

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How many hours of acceptable continuing education do I need?

Starting Date	Hours	Starting Date	Hours	Starting Date	Hours
1/1/15	0	1/1/16	12	1/1/17	24
2/1/15	1	2/1/16	13	2/1/17	25
3/1/15	2	3/1/16	14	3/1/17	26
4/1/15	3	4/1/16	15	4/1/17	27
5/1/15	4	5/1/16	16	5/1/17	28
6/1/15	5	6/1/16	17	6/1/17	29
7/1/15	6	7/1/16	18	7/1/17	30
8/1/15	7	8/1/16	19	8/1/17	31
9/1/15	8	9/1/16	20	9/1/17	32
10/1/15	9	10/1/16	21	10/1/17	33
11/1/15	10	11/1/16	22	11/1/17	34
12/1/15	11	12/1/16	23	12/1/17	35

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Acceptable social work subjects

The subject matter must contribute to the professional practice of social work

- ▣ practice, knowledge and skills; research, programs, or practice evaluations; social work management, administration or social policy; social work ethics;
- ▣ clinical interventions, evidence-based models, and principles of clinical social work practice, psychotherapy, and clinical social work diagnosis;
- ▣ client communications and recordkeeping;
- ▣ administrative and clinical supervision of social work practice;
- ▣ pedagogical methodologies or other topics which contribute to the professional practice of licensed master social work and licensed clinical social work; or
- ▣ cross-disciplinary offerings if they are clearly related to the enhancement of social work practice, skills and knowledge, and the health, safety, and/or welfare of the public.

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Acceptable social work continuing education activities

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▣ Formal courses of learning, including college courses ▣ Professional development sessions from acceptable social work organizations; ▣ Other technical programs acceptable to the Department | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▣ Preparing & teaching a course or session ▣ Writing a first-time article or book chapter in social work or related field, acceptable to SED ▣ Self-study activities offered by an SED-approved provider (limited to one-third of total CE hours) |
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Compliance with social work continuing education law

- ▣ Must complete acceptable CE starting 1/1/15 to register for practice as an LMSW or LCSW
 - Not required in first three-year registration period
 - Not required if licensee is “inactive” and not practicing as an LMSW or LCSW in New York
 - Complete CE when returning from inactive status
 - Requirement may be adjusted for good cause (illness, active military duty), acceptable to SED
 - One-year conditional registration allows licensee to make up the deficiency from prior period PLUS the hours required during the conditional registration

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Only courses taken from NYS-approved providers are acceptable

- ▣ Entity must apply to SED, pay \$900 fee and meet the requirements in law and regulation
- ▣ Providers must be approved every 3 years
- ▣ Only courses or education activities taken after January 1, 2015 from a NYS-approved provider are acceptable.
- ▣ List of providers will be posted and updated at www.op.nysed.gov/prof/sw/swceproviderlist.htm

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Continuing education recordkeeping & reporting

- ▣ SED-approved providers must issue a Certificate of Completion to licensees who complete continuing education activities
- ▣ Licensee must keep a record of completed, acceptable continuing education for six years from the date of the coursework/educational activity, including copies of professional articles, chapters and presentations.
- ▣ Attest to compliance when registering
- ▣ Do not send copies unless requested for audit.

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Questions and Answers

Social work website:

<http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/sw/swceinfo.htm>

LMSW & LCSW FAQs:

<http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/sw/swcefaq.htm>

Provider requirements:

<http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/sw/swceproviders.htm>

Approved providers:

<http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/sw/swceproviderlist.htm>



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