

# BECOMING A LICENSED MASTER SOCIAL WORKER

(LMSW) in New York State

## ELIGIBILITY IN NEW YORK STATE

- Be at least 21 years of age.
- Be of good moral character as determined by the New York State Department of Education (NYSED).
- Meet educational requirements: a CSWE accredited MSW program, like the UB MSW program.
- Complete coursework or training in the identification and reporting of child abuse offered by a NYS approved provider. Both SW 520 and SW 540 satisfy this requirement.
- Pass the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Exam.

## HOW TO OBTAIN LICENSURE

- Submit online application for licensure (form 1) and the \$294 fee: <https://eservices.nysed.gov/professions/>
- Submit the certification of professional education (form 2) to the UB Registrar to verify your education directly to NYSED: <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/sw/lmsw2.pdf>
- NYSED must approve your education and application materials and will notify ASWB of your exam eligibility.
- Register with ASWB to take the Masters exam: <https://www.aswb.org/exam-candidates/exam-registration/>
- Once approved, make an exam appointment at a Pearson VUE test center. The exam fee is currently \$230.

## BENEFITS OF PURSUING LICENSURE

- Being licensed is a selling point to employers and may unlock future career opportunities.
- Licensing is a legal matter - the primary purpose of licensing is consumer protection.
- To legally practice social work in New York State, social workers must be licensed and registered or have a limited permit, or be practicing in an exempt setting.

## IMPORTANT TO KNOW INFORMATION

- Licenses do not expire; renewal is every three years. Licensure status is public knowledge and can be accessed at: <http://www.op.nysed.gov/sw/>
- An LMSW will not have to complete continuing education during your initial three-year registration period
- For health information regarding COVID-19 and UBSSW's response, please visit: <http://socialwork.buffalo.edu/about/covid-19.html>.

REACH OUT TO THE STUDENTS SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT FOR ADDITIONAL HELP AT:  
SW-STUDENTSERVICES@BUFFALO.EDU