

1 SUBMIT APPLICATION FOR STANDARD LICENSE + APPLICATION FEE

Apply and make payment using [Online Services](#) or download the [Standard Application for Licensure](#) form and submit via mail with check or money order with required fee.

2 COMPLETE FINGERPRINT-BASED CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

All applicants for initial licensure must complete a fingerprint-based criminal background check (CBC) (*current licensees are not required to complete a CBC if applying for a different license type*). The CBC fee is bundled with the application fee when you submit your application.

The Criminal Background Check Program Office will email instructions and forms directly to you the following business day. If you do not receive this email in your Inbox, check your Spam/Junk email folders. If you are unable to locate the email, please contact the Criminal Background Check Program directly at 651-201-2822 or send an email to criminal.background.check@state.mn.us Wait to receive this email before scheduling a fingerprinting appointment.

3 SUBMIT REQUIRED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Your application cannot be processed and will be delayed without the required supporting documentation. [Forms](#) are available on the Board website.

➤ Official Transcript: All standard license applicants

- Transcript must specify degree, major, and date degree conferred
- Contact school to send **official** transcript directly to Board office:
 - By mail to 335 Randolph Ave, Suite 245, Saint Paul, MN 55102
 - By email (*secure, certified PDF from your school*) to social.work@state.mn.us
- Do NOT resubmit if submitted with a previous application
- Students: submit official transcript after graduation to ensure date degree conferred is on it.

➤ Supervision Verification: LISW and LICSW applicants by examination only

- Submit verification using [online services](#) or download the [form](#) on the Board website

➤ Certification of 360 Clinical Clock Hours: LICSW applicants by examination only

- Detailed information available on the [Apply for Standard LICSW](#) page of the Board website
- Download the [Standard License 360 Clock Hours Forms 1 - 3](#) on the Board website

➤ Verification of Licensure: Endorsement applicants only

- Each licensing/credentialing agency must submit verification of your current social work license(s) directly to the Board; a [License by Endorsement Verification of Licensure](#) form is available on the Board of Social Work website

4 REGISTER FOR AND TAKE ASWB EXAM (Applicants by examination only)

The Board will notify you **by mail** if you are approved to take the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) exam following the initial review of your application.

- Schedule your exam as soon as possible after receiving approval from the Board to ensure all steps are completed within the one-year application deadline.
 - If you have a disability or other health condition, need lactation accommodations, or if English is not your primary language, you may be eligible to receive nonstandard testing arrangement.
 - You must request and receive approval for nonstandard testing arrangements before you register with ASWB to take the exam.
- *If your name changes prior to examination approval you must submit legal documentation to the Board as evidence of the name change in order to register for the examination.*
- **Contact [ASWB](#) to register and schedule an exam.** Official exam results are automatically forwarded to the Board approximately two weeks after you take the exam. The Board will notify you by mail regarding next steps to complete your application.
- Passing the exam is NOT the equivalent of being licensed.

5 PAY INITIAL LICENSE FEE

If approved for licensure, the Board will mail a notice and your [online profile](#) will be updated. Pay your prorated initial license fee in [online services](#). **A license is effective the date the initial fee is received by the Board.**

A license certificate will be mailed to you after your license is granted. Use the [Public License Lookup](#) to view or print license details and verification after you pay your initial license fee.



PROCESSING TIMES AND DEADLINES

► Application Review

- Typically takes 30 to 60 days from application received date
- The Board will notify you **by mail** if additional information is required, or if you are approved for the exam or for licensure
- [Create an online profile](#) on the Board website to check your application status and review your application checklist

► Fingerprint-based Criminal Background Check

- Typically takes three weeks for the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) to process from date fingerprints are submitted to the CBC Program Office

► One-Year Application Deadline

- All required steps, including payment of the initial license fee, must be completed within one year of the application received date, or the application is closed
- Reapplication, a new fingerprint-based CBC, and payment of the application and CBC fees are required if an application is closed