

GENERAL FAQ's

Q-What is the difference between LCSW and LCSWA?

A-The **Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)** credential is a mandatory license to practice clinical social work in NC. The LCSW credential is awarded to individuals who have a MSW, have obtained 3000 hours of post graduate paid supervised employment in a clinical setting in no less than two years nor more than six years, have received a minimum of 100 hours of clinical supervision, and have passed the ASWB Clinical level exam.

The **Licensed Clinical Social Worker Associate (LCSWA)** is required to provide clinical services if all requirements for the LCSW have not been met. This level allows social workers to practice clinical social work while gaining the necessary supervised experience to be independently licensed.

Q-Does North Carolina offer reciprocity/comity with other states?

A-The North Carolina Social Work Certification and Licensure Board does not acknowledge reciprocity with any other jurisdiction. We do offer licensure by substantial equivalency if the requirements for the equivalent licensure in the current jurisdiction are deemed equivalent to NC requirements. Substantial equivalency is based on verification of substantially equivalent requirements from your previous jurisdiction, **including examination**.

Q-What is the difference between LCSW and ACSW?

A-The LCSW and ACSW are two different credentials awarded by two different organizations. The LCSW is a mandatory license to practice clinical social work in NC and is issued by the North Carolina Social Work Certification and Licensure Board. An associate license (LCSWA) may be issued to individuals who have not met all LCSW requirements.

The ACSW credential is granted by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), which is a private professional organization. It is NOT a substitute for the LCSW license.

Q-Do I have to be a member of NASW to be certified through the North Carolina Social Work Certification and Licensure Board?

A-No. The NASW is a professional association, while the NCSWCLB is the state regulatory agency governing social work practice in North Carolina.