Occupational Licensing Study
50 State Comparison

State Board of Social Workers, Marriage & Family Therapists and Professional Counselors

Clinical Social Worker
Marriage & Family Therapist
Professional Counselor
Social Worker

Presented by the Pennsylvania Department of State
2020
Clinical Social Worker

A social worker who holds a clinical license and has special knowledge of social resources, human personality and capabilities, and therapeutic techniques and how they can be used to help people achieve adequate and productive personal, interpersonal and social adjustments in their individual lives, in their families and in their community.

Marriage & Family Therapist

Individuals who specialize in the application of psychotherapeutic and family systems theories and techniques to the evaluation, assessment and treatment of mental and emotional disorders, whether cognitive, affective or behavioral.
Professional Counselor

Licensed professionals who may specialize in any of the following:

(1) The application of principles and practices of counseling, mental health and human development to evaluate and facilitate human growth and adjustment throughout the life span and to prevent and treat mental, emotional or behavioral disorders and associated stresses which interfere with mental health and normal human growth and development.

(2) The evaluation and assessment of normal and abnormal mental, emotional, social, educational, vocational, family and behavioral functioning throughout the life span; individual, group, family counseling and psychotherapy; crisis intervention, career counseling and educational and vocational counseling; functional assessment of persons with disabilities; and professional consulting.

(3) Professional counselors’ utilization of verbal and nonverbal approaches and specialization in the use of arts-based therapeutic approaches, such as art, dance, music or drama, to accomplish treatment objectives.
Social Worker

A person who holds a current license and has received a master’s or doctoral degree from an accredited school or program of social work or social welfare.

A social worker has special knowledge of social resources, human personality and capabilities and therapeutic techniques and how to use them to help people to achieve adequate and productive personal, interpersonal and social adjustments in their individual lives, in their families and in their community.
Clinical Social Worker

Degree Requirement

States with 1 required examination

Examination Requirement

States with 2 required examinations
Clinical Social Worker

Training / Experience Requirement

- **Experience scale**
  - 2 years = <3,200 hours
  - 3 years = 3,200 hours - 4,800 hours
  - 4 years = >4,800 hours

*To allow for comparison, CE requirements have been adjusted to 2-year reporting cycles.*

Continuing Education Requirement

*To allow for comparison, CE requirements have been adjusted to 2-year reporting cycles.*

CE Reporting Cycles

- 2 years
- 3 years
- 1 year

2020
Clinical Social Worker

Initial Licensing Fee

*To allow for comparisons, all fees have been adjusted to biennial renewal cycles

Renewal Fees

*To allow for comparisons, all fees have been adjusted to biennial renewal cycles
### States with Reciprocity or Endorsement

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**Act 41, signed by Governor Wolf on July 2, 2019, allows for portability of out-of-state professional licensees coming to work in Pennsylvania. Act 41 does this by granting all boards and commissions within the Commonwealth the authority to immediately endorse licensee from other states, territories or jurisdictions (with substantially equivalent licensing requirements) who are active, in good standing and without discipline against their license or criminal conviction. If a licensee comes from a jurisdiction that does not have substantially equal requirements for licensure, then the boards/commissions may grant a provisional license for a period of such time to allow the new resident to meet the necessary requirements, allowing them access to gainful employment in the interim.**
Marriage & Family Therapist
Degree Requirement

Examination Requirement
Marriage & Family Therapist

Training / Experience Requirement

![Map showing training/experience requirement by state: PA and U.S. avg. years.]

- **Experience scale**: 1 year = 1,600 hours or less
  - 2 years = 3,200 hours or less
  - 3 years = 3,200 hours - 4,800 hours

Continuing Education Requirement

![Map showing continuing education requirement by state: PA and U.S. avg. hours.]

- **30 hours**
- **36.39 hours**

*To allow for comparison, CE requirements have been adjusted to 2-year reporting cycles.*

CE Reporting Cycles

- **2 years**: 39 States
- **3 years**: 9 States
- **1 year**: 2 States

*To allow for comparison, CE requirements have been adjusted to 2-year reporting cycles.*
Marriage & Family Therapist

**Initial Licensing Fee**

*Initial licensing fee comparison excludes examination fees, background check fees, and fingerprint fees.

- **HIGHEST:** $1,250.00 (Alaska)
- **MEDIAN:** $209.00
- **LOWEST:** $50.00 (Nebraska)

**Renewal Fees**

*To allow for comparisons, all fees have been adjusted to biennial renewal cycles.

- **HIGHEST:** $1,250.00 (Alaska)
- **MEDIAN:** $177.00
- **LOWEST:** $50.00 (Nebraska)

**Renewal Cycles**

- Biennial: 36 States
- Triennial: 2 States
- Annual: 12 States
**States with Reciprocity or Endorsement**

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**Credentials**

- New Jersey

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Professional Counselor

Degree Requirement

Examination Requirement
The State Board of Social Workers, Marriage & Family Therapists and Professional Counselors

Professional Counselor

Training / Experience Requirement

- 1 year = 1,600 hours or less
- 2 years = 1,600 hours - 3,200 hours
- 3 years = 3,200 hours - 4,800 hours

Continuing Education Requirement

- 20 - 29 CE hours/2 yrs
- 30 - 39 CE hours/2 yrs
- 40 - 49 CE hours/2 yrs
- 50 - 70 CE hours/2 yrs
- No CE hours required
- States that do not license Professional Counselors

*To allow for comparison, CE requirements have been adjusted to 2-year reporting cycles.

CE Reporting Cycles

- 2 years: 28 States
- 1 year: 8 States
- 4 years: 1 State

*12 states do not license Professional Counselors and 1 state does not require CE hours for licensure.
**Professional Counselor**

### Initial Licensing Fee

- **HIGHEST:** $450.00 (Alaska)
- **MEDIAN:** $172.50
- **LOWEST:** $50.00 (Nebraska)

- **U.S. Avg.:** $100.00

*Initial licensing fee comparison excludes examination fees, background check fees, and fingerprint fees.*

### Renewal Fees

- **HIGHEST:** $500.00 (Minnesota)
- **MEDIAN:** $175.00
- **LOWEST:** $62.00 (Wisconsin)

- **U.S. Avg.:** $197.16

*To allow for comparisons, all fees have been adjusted to biennial renewal cycles.*

*12 states do not license Professional Counselors*

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### Professional Counselor

**States with Reciprocity or Endorsement**

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Social Worker

Degree Requirement

- **Degrees:**
  - Bachelors
  - Masters
  - States that do not license Social Workers

Examination Requirement

- **States with 1 required examination**
- **States with 2 required examinations**
- **States that do not license Social Workers**
Continuing Education Requirement

**Good Moral Character Requirement**

State has Good Moral Character Requirement for Licensure:
- Yes
- No

**Continuing Education Requirement**

- **HOURS**
  - 30 hours
  - 31.93 hours

**CE Reporting Cycles**

- States that do not license Social Workers
- 10 - 19 CE hours/2 yrs
- 20 - 29 CE hours/2 yrs
- 30 - 39 CE hours/2 yrs
- 40 - 60 CE hours/2 yrs

*To allow for comparison, CE requirements have been adjusted to 2-year reporting cycles.*

MAP: THE STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORKERS, MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPISTS AND PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS
Social Worker

Initial Licensing Fee

* Initial licensing fee comparison excludes examination fees, background check fees, and finger printing fees.

Renewal Fees

*6 States do not license Social Workers

To allow for comparisons, all fees have been adjusted to biennial renewal cycles.
**Social Worker**

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**States that do not license Social Workers**

- California
- Delaware
- Montana
- New Hampshire
- Rhode Island

**Not specified in legislation**

- Georgia
- Oregon
- South Carolina
- West Virginia

**ACT 41**

**Pennsylvania**

**Act 41**, signed by Governor Wolf on July 2, 2019, allows for portability of out-of-state professional licensees coming to work in Pennsylvania. Act 41 does this by granting all boards and commissions within the Commonwealth the authority to immediately endorse licensee from other states, territories or jurisdictions (with substantially equivalent licensing requirements) who are active, in good standing and without discipline against their license or criminal conviction. If a licensee comes from a jurisdiction that does not have substantially equal requirements for licensure, then the boards/commissions may grant a provisional license for a period of such time to allow the new resident to meet the necessary requirements, allowing them access to gainful employment in the interim.
Sources: State Licensing Boards

Alabama
http://socialwork.alabama.gov/default.aspx

Alaska
https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/professionallicensing/socialworkexaminers.aspx

Arizona
http://www.azbbhe.us/

Arkansas
http://www.arkansas.gov/swlb/

Colorado
https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dora/SocialWorker.aspx

Connecticut

District of Columbia
https://doh.dc.gov/service/social-work-licensing

Florida
http://floridasmentalhealthprofessions.gov/licensing/licensed-clinical-social-worker/

Georgia
http://sos.ga.gov/index.php/licensing/plb/43

Hawaii
http://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/programs/socialworker/

Idaho

Illinois
https://www.idfpr.com/professions/socialworker/43

Indiana
https://www.in.gov/pla/3030.htm

Iowa
https://idph.iowa.gov/Licensure/Iowa-Board-of-Social-Work

Kansas
http://ksbsrb.ks.gov/professions/social-workers

Kentucky
https://bsw.ky.gov/Pages/index.aspx

Louisiana
https://www.labswe.org/

Maine
http://www.maine.gov/pfr/professionallicensing/professions/social_workers/ls.html

Maryland
https://health.maryland.gov/bswe/Pages/default.aspx

Massachusetts
https://www.mass.gov/social-worker-licensing

Michigan

Minnesota
http://mn.gov/boards/social-work/

Mississippi

Missouri
http://socwork.nv.gov/

New Jersey
http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/sw/Pages/regulations.aspx

New Mexico
http://www.nmsu.edu/offices/boards/soc_workers.html

New York
http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/sw/lmsw.htm

North Carolina
http://www.ncsnc.org/index.html

North Dakota
https://nbdswc.com/

Ohio

Oklahoma
https://www.ok.gov/socialworkers/

Oregon
http://www.oregon.gov/BLSW/Pages/index.aspx

Pennsylvania
http://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardsCommissions/SocialWorkersMarriage&FamilyTherapistsProfessionalCounselors/Pages/default.aspx

South Carolina
http://www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/SocialWorkers/

South Dakota
https://dss.sd.gov/licensingboards/social.aspx

Tennessee
https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/sw-board.html

Texas
https://www.dshs.texas.gov/socialwork/

Utah
https://dopl.utah.gov/licensing/social_work.html

Vermont
https://www.sec.state.vt.us/professional-regulation/list-of-professions/social-workers.aspx

Virginia
https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/social/

Washington
https://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificate/ProfessionsNewReneworUpdate/SocialWorker

West Virginia
https://www.wvsocialworkboard.org/LawsRules.aspx

Wisconsin
https://dsps.wi.gov/pages/Professions/SocialWorker/DAdd.aspx

Wyoming
http://mentalhealth.wyo.gov/