

**EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS NECESSARY TO QUALIFY
TO SIT FOR THE LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK EXAMINATION
IN VIRGINIA**

The applicant shall be a graduate of a Master or Doctor of Social Work Program in a clinical course of study. An applicant with a non-clinical concentration must complete additional graduate level academic course work and field placement to meet all requirements for a clinical course of study.

Social Work Education at the Master's level includes foundation course work, common for all social work students, and advanced course work for student specialization. The Doctor of Social Work Program must at a minimum meet all requirements for the advanced course requirements for a clinical course of study.

The minimum course requirements for a clinical course of study include graduate level courses consisting of:

12 credit hours **Explanatory Theory** (How we understand Human Behavior through a BioPsychoSocial perspective, i.e., psychodynamic, ego psychology, self psychology, relational, systems, cognitive behavioral, socio/cultural, behavioral, etc.)

12 credit hours **Practice Theory** (Models of Direct Practice, Clinical Practice or Psychotherapy, i.e., individual, family, child and adolescent, or group psychotherapy, cognitive behavioral, client centered, short-term,, etc. from conventional theoretical models of social work practice).

3 credit hours **Psychopathology** including assessment, diagnosis and treatment.

3 credit hours **Social Work Practice Research**

Course work in **Diversity Issues, Social Justice, Culture, and At-Risk Populations** (i.e., abused children)

Supervised **Field Placement** in direct practice should be a minimum of 900 hours, 600 of which are integrated with Clinical Course of Study course work. Student supervision for the 600-hour requirement must be holds a supervisor who holds Master's or Doctor's degree in Social Work and has a minimum of 3 years of direct practice clinical experience after earning the graduate degree or who is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

Graduates of a Bachelor of Social Work program who earn Advanced Standing in the Masters program must meet all minimum course requirements for a Clinical Course of Study, except Advanced Standing students may count up to 6 hours of Explanatory Theory and up to 6 hours of Practice Theory completed during the Bachelor degree program towards meeting the requirements.

A Master of Social Work program must be accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. A Doctor of Social Work program must be accredited by the appropriate Regional Academic Accrediting body (i.e., Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Middle States Commission on Higher Education).