

Minnesota Temporary License Option for Students Graduating from Programs in Candidacy for CSWE Accreditation

Apply for Temporary License

If you qualify for one of three specific provisions, a temporary license allows you to begin authorized social work practice for a time-limited period, and can typically be issued more quickly than a permanent license. If you will start a social work position in Minnesota before your permanent license is issued, or do not plan to obtain a permanent Minnesota license, apply for a temporary license to avoid unlicensed practice.

There are three temporary licenses under [Minnesota Statutes section 148E.060](#). Temporary licenses are issued as either baccalaureate (if you are applying for permanent LSW and/or have a bachelor's degree) or masters (if you are applying for permanent LGSW, LISW, or LICSW and/or have a master's degree). Review temporary licenses and requirements on each tab below to determine if you are eligible.

1. **Students** or persons not currently licensed in another jurisdiction
2. Persons **currently licensed in another jurisdiction**
3. **Students** graduating from programs in Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) **candidacy status**

Candidacy Students

Available to students who are graduating from a social work degree program in candidacy status (programs working toward CSWE accreditation).

Eligibility Requirements

- **Permanent License Application:** Submitted an application for permanent licensure (LSW or LGSW)
- **Academic Degree:** Completed all requirements for a baccalaureate or graduate degree in social work from a program currently in candidacy status with the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) or the Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work
- **Examination:** Obtained a passing score on the applicable Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) exam
- **Criminal Background Check:** Submitted required fees and documentation for a criminal background check (CBC) under Minnesota Statutes section 214.075 (*CBC fee is submitted with application for permanent license*)
- **Ethical Standards:** Must not have engaged in conduct in violation of the Board's ethical standards of practice

Time Limit/Expiration

- Valid for 12 months
- Not renewable but may be extended if the social work program remains in candidacy status

- Expiration date is the last day of the month 12 months from the effective date, or when a permanent license is issued, whichever is earlier

Supervised Practice Requirements

Licensing supervision is required for practice under a temporary license issued to a student or unlicensed person:

- Review [supervised practice requirements](#)
- Submit a Supervision Plan within 60 days of beginning a social work position
- Supervised practice completed with a temporary license will apply to permanent license requirements

Authorized Scope of Practice:

- **Baccalaureate temporary license:** Authorizes the practice of social work but does not authorize clinical social work practice
- **Graduate temporary license:** Authorizes both the practice of social work and clinical social work practice

Representation:

- **Baccalaureate temporary license:** Must represent as a “temporary license baccalaureate social worker”
- **Graduate temporary license:** Must represent as a “temporary license graduate social worker”
- Do not use the credentials LSW or LGSW until a permanent license is issued

**Continuing Education (CE) is not required for temporary licenses, but CE obtained with a temporary license may be applied to permanent license requirements.*

Attention BSW and MSW Students—Apply at the Right Time!

- A temporary license can only be approved if you have completed all degree requirements and obtained a passing score on the required ASWB exam
- If you have applied for permanent license, passed the ASWB, and submitted fingerprints, you may apply for temporary license two weeks before completing degree requirements, but don’t apply earlier than that
- Plan to submit a temporary license application at least 3 to 5 business days before your hire date if you are starting a social work position to allow for processing
- Review [Top Ten Temporary License Tips for Students](#) for more helpful information