

Why become licensed or certified?

- Certification and Licensure represents professional validation and is a statement of professional commitment to a high standard of practice.
- Licensure may be required to practice social work in some jurisdictions. [**North Carolina REQUIRES licensure for clinical social work practice – *IT'S THE LAW.***]
- It promotes personal and professional growth and development through ongoing continuing education.
- Public protection is enhanced as certified and licensed professionals are held to strict ethical guidelines.
- Regulation of the profession is present in all states at some level, with most all states utilizing the national exams offered by ASWB.

The ***Social Worker Certification and Licensure Act*** [N.C. General Statute § 90B] was enacted in 1983 by the North Carolina State Legislature to set a standard for the profession and to ensure public protection. Through credential review, examination, and ongoing continuing education, professional competence is affirmed and the public is assured that professional, ethical, qualified, and accountable social work practitioners carry the title “Certified” or “Licensed” social worker.

For information on credentialing [Bachelors, Masters, Clinical, and Manager level] and how you can apply for certification or licensure in North Carolina, visit our website or contact the Board office.

North Carolina Social Work Certification and Licensure Board

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