

From: Virginia Board of Social Work <socialwork@dhp.virginia.gov>
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Virginia Board of Social Work

Announcement: The Licensed Baccalaureate Social Worker (LBSW) and the Licensed Masters Social Worker (LMSW) are now in effect

For **NEW** applicants:

- Effective 8/8/2019, all bachelor level applicants must apply for the LBSW, which requires passage of the bachelors level exam.
- All masters level applicants who are not pursuing a clinical track must apply for the LMSW, which requires passage of the master's level exam.
- No changes have been made to the licensure process to obtain an LCSW.

For **CURRENT LSW applicants with a MASTER's degree:**

- If you have been approved to take the bachelor's level exam, you will still be allowed to take the bachelors level exam and receive the LMSW.
- Please note that should you leave Virginia, other states may require you to pass the master's level exam in order to obtain the LMSW in that state. As such, it may be in your best interest to request that the Board change your approval to allow you to go ahead and take the master's level exam instead of the bachelor's level exam. If you wish to change your approval, please contact the Board at socialwork@dhp.virginia.gov.

For **CURRENT LSW applicants with a BACHELOR'S degree:**

- If you have been approved to take the bachelor's level exam, nothing changes. Once you pass, you will receive an LBSW.

For **Current Active** LSWs:

- Over the next month, the Board will issue you a LMSW or LBSW and wall certificates based on your education level.
- You will not be required to take another exam or pay an additional fee.
- Once you receive your LMSW or LBSW, your LSW will be null and void.
- You will still be required to renew on June 30 of each year and complete the continuing education requirements at every even year renewal.

