

Frequently Asked Questions

Approved Program Examination Requirement

Q. Who is required to write the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Exam in Manitoba?

A. There are two groups that are required to complete the examination when applying to MCSW. **1)** Substantial Equivalency applicants (effective April 1, 2018) and **2)** Applicants who have graduated from an approved social work program (effective January 1, 2021).

[Substantial Equivalency Application Policy](#)

[Approved Social Work Program Policy](#)

[Exam Use Policy](#)

Q. Who does not have to write the ASWB Exam?

A. There are two groups that **do not** have to write the exam. **1)** Applicants with [CASW international academic assessments](#) that indicate Canadian BSW/MSW equivalence and **2)** graduates of an accredited social work program; for a list of accredited social work programs please refer to this [CASWE-ACFTS listing of accredited programs](#).

Q. What organization proctors this exam?

A. The [Association of Social Work Boards \(ASWB\)](#) is the organization that provides and organizes the examination.

Q. What is ASWB?

A. ASWB is a non-profit organization composed of and owned by the social work regulatory boards and colleges of all 50 US States, the District of Columbia, the US Virgin Islands, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and all 10 Canadian provinces. Their mission is to provide support and services to the social work regulatory community to advance safe, competent, and ethical practices to strengthen public protection.

You can find out more about ASWB here: <https://www.aswb.org/about/>

Q. How do I access the examination?

A. You need to apply for registration with the Manitoba College of Social Workers and submit all supporting documents to be approved to write the exam.

Q. How do I apply for registration?

A. If you are interested in becoming a registered social worker in Manitoba, you will need to apply for registration via the [Join the College](#) webpage. Apply under the appropriate category and submit all required supporting documentation listed. You can choose to apply first and submit your documentation as you receive it, or you can collect all of the documentation and apply/submit all of your documents at the same time. Applications expire 6 months from the date of application.

Q. Can I apply for registration and write the exam prior to completing my degree?

A. Yes. Applicants in their final semester of an approved program can access the examination prior to graduation by submitting an application, the required supporting documents (STEP 2) and a letter from the registrars' office confirming they are in their final semester and their expected convocation date. See [STEP 3](#) of the application process for more information.

Q. What if I graduated from an approved program prior to January 1, 2021. Do I still have to write the exam?

A. Yes. As of January 1, 2021 any graduate from an approved program seeking registration, regardless of their convocation date, will be required to write the ASWB exam to register with the College.

Q. Can I register to write the exam prior to applying for registration with the College?

A. No. An applicant must be approved for registration with MCSW to be able access the exam by MCSW prior to registering to write the exam with ASWB.

Q. Do other regulated professions have this same requirement?

A. Yes. Many other social work regulators use the ASWB examination and many other professional regulatory bodies use an examination as part of their assessment process.

Q. Where can I access information regarding the ASWB exam?

A. Information regarding the ASWB exam can be found on the ASWB [Exam Candidates](#) webpage. Questions regarding the exam should be directed to ASWB via candidateservices@aswb.org.

Q. Are there fees associated with the examination?

A. Yes. Fee information is available on the ASWB website on the [Exam Candidates](#) webpage.

Q. How long is the application and examination process?

A. Once all of your application documents have been submitted to the College, it can take between 4-6 weeks for the College to review and notify an applicant of the decision. Once approved to write the exam, you will receive communication from MCSW that you have 3 months to schedule your examination through ASWB. Approved applicants will register with ASWB, then candidates will schedule an appointment with the test vendor – Pearson VUE.

[ASWB](#) has resources to help guide you through the exam process. Please direct any questions about the exam and the exam process to candidateservices@aswb.org.

Q. What happens if I am unsuccessful on my first attempt at writing the ASWB examination?

A. If you are unsuccessful on your first attempt you may apply to retake the examination a maximum of 2 times. A waiting period of 90 days is required between rewrites. Exam candidates are responsible for communicating directly with ASWB to retake the

examination and for payment of all examination fees. Review the [Exam Use Policy](#) for more information.

Q. What happens if I am unsuccessful on all 3 attempts at writing the ASWB examination?

A. Currently there are no provisions to re-write the examination or reapply for registration after 3 failed examination attempts.