

Frequently Asked Questions

Examination Requirement

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

- A. 1) Substantial Equivalency applicants
2) Applicants who have graduated from an approved social work program

Relevant Policies:

[Exam Use Policy](#)

[Substantial Equivalency Application Policy](#)

[Approved Social Work Program Policy](#)

[Approved Social Work Program List](#)

Q. How do I access the examination?

- A. You must apply and be approved to write the examination with the Manitoba College of Social Workers.

Q. How do I apply for registration?

- A. If you are interested in becoming a registered social worker in Manitoba, you can apply for registration via the [Join the College](#) webpage.

Q. What organization develops and administers the exam?

- A. The [Association of Social Work Boards \(ASWB\)](#) develops and maintains the social work licensing exam used to test a social worker's competence to practice ethically and safely.

Q. What is ASWB?

- A. ASWB is a non-profit organization composed of 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. Can I apply for registration and write the exam prior to completing my degree?

A. Yes. Applicants in their final semester of an approved social work program can access the examination prior to graduation by applying to the College. See [Applicants with a Social Work Degree](#) (specifically Step 3) route of entry for more information.

Q. If I graduated from an approved program or a National Indigenous Accreditation Board (NIAB) accredited program prior to January 1, 2021, do I still have to write the exam?

A. Yes. Any graduates from an approved program or NIAB accredited program seeking registration, regardless of their convocation date, are required to write the ASWB exam as part of the MCSW application process.

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 a licensing 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 application documents have been submitted to the College, it can take between 4-6 weeks for the College to review an application in order to determine eligibility to write the exam. Once authorized to write the exam, applicants receive communication from MCSW that they have 3 months to schedule an examination.

Q. How do I schedule an examination date?

A. Applicants must have received their authorization to test email to complete the scheduling process. Information regarding exam appointment scheduling can be found on the ASWB [Exam appointments](#) webpage

Q. What if I have questions about the exam?

A. [ASWB](#) has resources to guide applicants 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 will be eligible to rewrite the exam following a 90-day waiting period. Exam candidates are responsible for communicating directly with ASWB to a) review [ASWB programs](#) in place to help exam candidates who are unsuccessful b) schedule their examination and 3) for payment of all examination fees. Review the [Exam Use Policy](#) for more information.

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

A. If you are unsuccessful on your second attempt you will be required to submit a remediation plan, for approval by MCSW, in order to be considered for one additional rewrite. A remediation plan may include but is not limited to a) a study plan using available [ASWB resources](#) b) completion of additional education or training, or c) an extended waiting period.

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

A. There are no provisions to re-write the examination or reapply for registration with MCSW after 3 failed examination attempts.