

Quick Advising Guide:
USM MSW Students Seeking Clinical Licensure in Maine

The Maine licensing board requires MSW students seeking a clinical license (LMSW-CC to work toward the LCSW) to complete a curriculum with “clinical concentration”. A “**clinical concentration**” is defined by **six graduate-level MSW courses** total. The USM MSW curriculum provides sufficient course content to qualify students for the clinical concentration. The following outlines the board requirements and the MSW courses that typically meet licensing specifications.

Please note that the USM School of Social Work does not guarantee any licensing board decisions about individual qualifications. We provide this information to you as a service, based on our years of experience with students applying for licensure, and we recommend that you contact the Maine licensing board directly for more definitive information.

Website:

http://www.maine.gov/pfr/professionallicensing/professions/social_workers/

Phone: (207) 624-8623; E-mail: socwkr.board@maine.gov.

How the Maine licensing board defines a “clinical concentration”:

1. Minimum of **two** courses in personality theory
 - One on normal growth development
 - Another on the abnormal personality
2. **Four** graduate “clinical methods” courses on individuals, families, and groups

OR

Three clinical methods and one additional personality theory course

How USM MSW courses align with these categories:

(Note: We cannot guarantee this!)

1. Two personality theory courses:
 - Normal growth and development: **SWO 502/552**, Critical Thinking About Human Behavior I & II
 - Abnormal personality: **SWO 660**, Advanced Biopsychosocial Assessment
2. Four clinical methods courses:
 - **Practice I (SWO 503)**
 - **Practice III (SWO 603)**
 - **Practice IV (SWO 651)**
 - **Sometimes Fieldwork (SWO 654/655)**

- **SWO Electives** are commonly taken to fulfill the clinical concentration requirement: couples & families, mental health practice with children and families, trauma & social work practice, empowerment practice, substance abuse, immigrants & refugees, gender & aging, etc. Advisors can assist you in selecting clinical electives.

Special issues for Advanced Standing Students:

1. Human Behavior (normal growth & development) is credited from your BSW degree
2. Since you do not take the foundation year courses, you do not take Practice I (SWO 503). This means that you need to take an **additional clinical methods course to fulfill the requirement for four methods courses**. You have Practice III & IV, *maybe* field (654/655), so you need at least one more carefully selected course *in addition* to SWO 660 (660 corresponds to the “abnormal personality” category, not “clinical methods”).
3. If you do the 6-credit thesis, you only take two electives. This means that one has to be SWO 660 and the other must be a clinical course. Without doing this, you will not have the courses needed to qualify for the LMSW-CC on the LCSW track.

As you can see, many of the courses that have qualified students for clinical licensure are required in the regular MSW curriculum. We also offer electives that focus on clinical practice. Use this guide to assist you in selecting your courses in collaboration with your advisors if you are planning to apply for clinical licensure in Maine.

Please note that the licensing board does not administer the exams. This is done by a national social work testing organization, Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB). ASWB requires that all state licensing boards verify that applicants have an *earned MSW degree before they can take the exam*. So, you must have a completed MSW degree, verified by an official transcript submitted to the Maine board as part of your application, in order to sit for the ASWB masters exam. For more information on ASWB exams and rules, see the website: <https://www.aswb.org/>