FOR BSW STUDENTS: GETTING THE LSW IN MAINE

By Jeanette Andonian
Based on Information obtained via the Maine Board of Social Work Licensure
WHAT CAN A “LICENSED SOCIAL WORKER” (LSW) DO?

- Conduct basic data gathering of records and specific life issues of individuals, groups, couples and families;
- Assess the above data, formulate and implement a plan to achieve specific goals related to specific life issues;
- Serve as an advocate for clients or groups of clients for the purpose of achieving specific goals relating to specific life issues;
- Refer clients to other professional services;
- Plan, manage, direct or coordinate social services;
- Participate in training and education of social work students;
- Supervise other LSWs, other professionals practicing related professions and paraprofessionals engaged in related activities.
- A LSW with a BSW who has been licensed for at least two years may provide consultation required by the LSW Conditional licenses to those licensees.
AN LSW CANNOT ENGAGE IN PRIVATE/INDEPENDENT SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE
TO APPLY FOR THE LSW, YOU MUST HAVE:

- A completed Application for Licensure (Send to: 35 State House Station. Augusta, ME 04333-0035)

- Official transcript of an earned Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree from a Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accredited program (transcript);

- Documentation of successful passage of the required examination (Basic/Bachelors);

- Three current letters of professional recommendation (within the past year), two of which must be from licensed social workers at any level of licensure from any state.
AND THE $$!!!

To the Licensing Board

- Application Fee: $25
- License Fee: $70
- Criminal Records Check Fee: $21

TOTAL: $116

To AWSB for the Exam

Bachelors Exam Fee: $230
Optional Printed Study Guide: $35
Optional Online Practice Test: $85

TOTAL: $230-$350, depending on the optional items purchased
THE ASWB EXAM

- Must first have approval by the Maine board to take the test (authorization to test)—Approval will be granted once you have your degree, complete the application and submit fees.

- Test is taken at a Pearson Vue Test Center: Contact for reservations (www.pearsonvue.com/aswb or 1-877-884-9537)

- When you make an appointment to take the test you need to supply:
  - First and last name as it appears on the ASWB “authorization to test”
  - Your candidate number form the “authorization to test”
  - Your address
  - Date of Birth
  - The test you want to take (which is the Bachelors test)
170 multiple choice questions—only 150 counted toward score (20 are pilot questions, nut you will not know which ones they are

Exam is 4 hours long

Bring TWO valid forms of identification—one must be a valid government issues photo ID with your signature; the other can be a valid ID with signature without photo.

Disability accommodations can be made—contact ASWB for details

Pearson test site location:  Main St. Westbrook, ME
ONCE LSW IS ACQUIRED:

- Supervision/consultation must be established (See Agreement to provide consultation for licensee)
  - A total of 96 hours of supervision must be provided for 3200 hours of social work employment in two to four years.
  - Consultant can be anyone with a social work license in Maine (LSW, LCSW, etc).

- License must be reviewed every two years (with renewal fee of $70)

- Continuing education (CE) required over two year period:
  - 25 hours including 4 hours focused on ethics
  - All CE must be directly related to social work (and ultimately, the board decides this)
  - Save ALL CE certificates and descriptions because you may be asked to submit this to the board for review (they do random audits now).