

NCWWI Student and Alumni Learning Exchanges: Spring 2023 Current Issues Series



Social Work Licensure: What's a Social Work Student Need to Know and Do?

This document summarizes key takeaways of a group discussion, following a presentation on professional regulation and licensure for the social work profession, challenges and disparities, and strategies for taking the exam:

ASWB licensure exam preparation strategies

- You're never going to feel fully prepared, you just have to do it
- Consider a licensure prep course before taking the exam (See [FAQ doc](#) for options)
- Anxiety is the biggest challenge and test prep and practice is the way to counteract it
- Most test prep courses:
 - Outline core concepts
 - Offer practice tests that include the correct answers and why the right answers are right and why wrong answers are wrong. This information helps to understand logic of some questions.
 - Give you a percentage of what you got wrong based on four different areas to help guide your areas of study
 - Interventions with clients/client systems
 - Assessment and intervention planning
 - Professional relationships, values, and ethics
 - HBSE, human development, diversity
- Do at least one practice test and time yourself before the actual test
- Connect and study with peers who are preparing for accountability and support

SESSION 1 OF 3

Event Date:

04/12/2023

Recording:

<https://vimeo.com/818368463>

Resources:

[Licensure Requirements Across States](#)

[ASWB Licensing Exam FAQ](#)



- To lower test anxiety
 - Drive out to your testing location to get familiar with your route
 - Practice sitting for 4 hours to increase your stamina for being able to sit for the exam
 - Be prepared by ensuring you have your ID

ASWB licensure exam test-taking strategies

- Always read the instructions first
- Try not to think about your clients
- Focus on the questions and the answers:
 - Pay close attention to words that seem key
 - When stuck on a question write down some of the key words to help your brain think about the question differently
 - Anticipate the answer without reading the answer choices
 - Each stem and answer are a complete unit – avoid thinking something else is needed to answer. Match a word in the stem with a word with a similar meaning in one of the answer choices.
 - Take the stem apart to find the most important details of the scenario
 - Each question has one correct answer; some incorrect answers may be “distracters”
 - ASWB never uses questions with “none/all of the above”, “A and B”, “B and D”
 - Use process of elimination to get to the BEST answer
 - There are no “trick” questions
- The exam will not reference state or local laws, but may reference federal laws
- The test takes 4 hours. Take your time! Don’t rush!
- Answer all the questions you can and then go back to those you have not answered
- Don’t get stuck on a question you can’t readily answer, “flag” difficult questions and go back
- Answer all 170 questions. If you don’t know the answer, it is better to guess than leave the question blank (you have a 25% chance to get it right)
- Acronyms can help you pass exam
 - Most questions are worded as first, next, best, and most. The following acronyms will help to identify the best answer for these types of questions
 - Write the acronyms on the paper provided to you when you enter the testing site
 - Use **FAREAFI** for the **first** and **next** questions
 - F=Feelings (acknowledging the client)
 - A=Assess
 - R=Refer
 - E=Educate
 - A=Advocate
 - F=Facilitate



- I=Intervene
- Use **AASPIRINS** for **best** and **most** questions
 - A=Acknowledge client
 - A=Assess
 - S=Start where the client is
 - P=Protect life (determining or preventing danger
 - I=Intoxicated do not treat. Refer
 - R=Rule out medical issues
 - I=Informed consent
 - N=Non-judgmental stance
 - S=Support patient self-determination

