Subject: Preparation Course Information

Continuing Education Opportunity and What Exam to Take

1. Every state is different and has different rules for licensure. Before you decide what exam to take and when, know the rules in the state where you plan to hold your license. All of this will be discussed in the course but rules change so a current application is needed from that state to determine what you need to do and which exam you need to take. I am not an expert on licensure, as each state has different requirements; therefore this course is designed to ONLY prepare you to take the ASWB exam which is ONE requirement for licensure in most states.

2. Current requirements in the State of Ohio.
Ohio has three levels of licensing: licensed social worker (LSW), licensed independent social worker (LISW), and licensed independent social worker-supervisor (LISW-S). Both BSW and MSW graduates can receive the LSW, but the exam you take is different. The Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board website explains licensing requirements and the application process.

- **If you have a BSW** you must the Bachelors exam, and can do so during your final semester of study or any time thereafter (once you have met the initial requirements) and become an LSW. Click here for Ohio LSW FAQs and here to read about the application for the LSW.

- As of January 1, 2018, **if you have an MSW** you must take the Masters exam, and can do so in your final semester of study. Click here for Ohio LSW FAQ and here to read about the application process for the LSW.

- If you have an MSW and hold an LSW license and have the required work experience and supervision hours you may apply for an LISW. Click here for information about the Ohio LISW. If you have not already tested, you may take either the Clinical or Advanced Generalist exam (read more about that here).

If you are not sure which test to take, check with the Ohio licensing board for the latest information. Always remember it is YOUR responsibility to apply and receive your professional license. Also, this continuing education offering is a course designed to prepare you for ASWB's exam which is a part of your licensure requirement--it is NOT a substitute for applying for licensure or taking the test.

3. Please keep in mind every state is different with different rules and the rules change. You have to know the rules in your State of license. We live on the border of several states so be sure you know the rules for that state where you are licensed. For example, the rules in Indiana presently differ from Ohio in terms of what test is needed as the different levels of licensure.

4. One of the biggest mistakes students make is they call the exam a license and use the license initials to describe it. For example the LSW is the Bachelor's exam. This is not accurate, a license is a license and the exam is just ONE of the requirements you need to get a license. In
social work all 50 states now use the ASWB exams but each license could require a different exam. Know the exam level and the rules required in the state where you seek your license.

ASWB has four levels of exams.
Bachelor's (this is covered in the one day course we offer)
Masters (covered in the two day course)
Advanced Generalist (covered in the two day course)
Clinical (covered in the two day course)

If you have any further individual questions about your situation after reading your licensure application packet call the licensing board. As a professional securing and maintaining licensure is your responsibility.

5. Support for Passing the Exam: Taking a preparation course can never guarantee you will pass the licensing exam. When requested, however, if you fail the exam, I can send updates via e-mail with extra questions to help you prepare again. This support will be explained in the course.

6. Also, we never know if this course will be offered at the School of Social Work every year but so far it has been offered for the last nine years. Each year this is our biggest fund raiser for the school. You can also take a course outside of this one to prepare for the exam and there are lots to choose from. These courses are privately run so you must contact the person responsible for the course, register and pay the fee. As a school fund-raiser all profits earned go back to the school and this is why we can offer this reduced-fee for our students, alumni.

7. I hope this helps you decide what you want to do. I have been doing this course for over 20 years and I have trained over 18,000 social workers to successfully pass this exam. I know how confusing this process can be and I will do my best to guide you on the path.

General Comments:
With the change that occurred in June 2016, you must now take the Bachelor’s exam when you graduate and practice for two years before you can take the Clinical exam. This will require that you focus on the content from the one day course. If you take the two day course use the second day to help you get ready for what is to come when you take the clinical exam after the two years of practice is complete.

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I am listing the Ohio SW Board's website and see the "What's New" at: http://cswmft.ohio.gov/Whats-New.