

Occupational Licensing Study 50 State Comparison

State Board of Social Workers, Marriage &
Family Therapists and Professional
Counselors

Clinical Social Worker
Marriage & Family Therapist
Professional Counselor
Social Worker



Presented by the Pennsylvania
Department of State

2020

Clinical Social Worker

A social worker who holds a clinical license and has special knowledge of social resources, human personality and capabilities, and therapeutic techniques and how they can be used to help people achieve adequate and productive personal, interpersonal and social adjustments in their individual lives, in their families and in their community.

Marriage & Family Therapist

Individuals who specialize in the application of psychotherapeutic and family systems theories and techniques to the evaluation, assessment and treatment of mental and emotional disorders, whether cognitive, affective or behavioral.

Professional Counselor

Licensed professionals who may specialize in any of the following:

(1) The application of principles and practices of counseling, mental health and human development to evaluate and facilitate human growth and adjustment throughout the life span and to prevent and treat mental, emotional or behavioral disorders and associated stresses which interfere with mental health and normal human growth and development.

(2) The evaluation and assessment of normal and abnormal mental, emotional, social, educational, vocational, family and behavioral functioning throughout the life span; individual, group, family counseling and psychotherapy; crisis intervention, career counseling and educational and vocational counseling; functional assessment of persons with disabilities; and professional consulting.

(3) Professional counselors' utilization of verbal and nonverbal approaches and specialization in the use of arts- based therapeutic approaches, such as art, dance, music or drama, to accomplish treatment objectives.

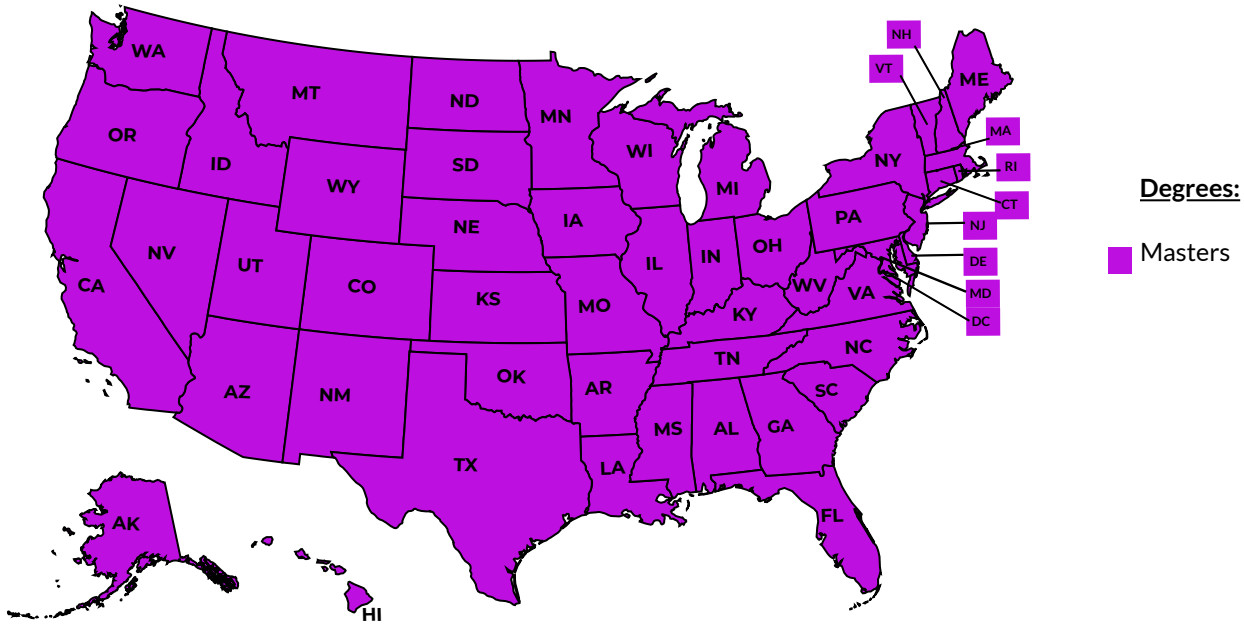
Social Worker

A person who holds a current license and has received a master's or doctoral degree from an accredited school or program of social work or social welfare.

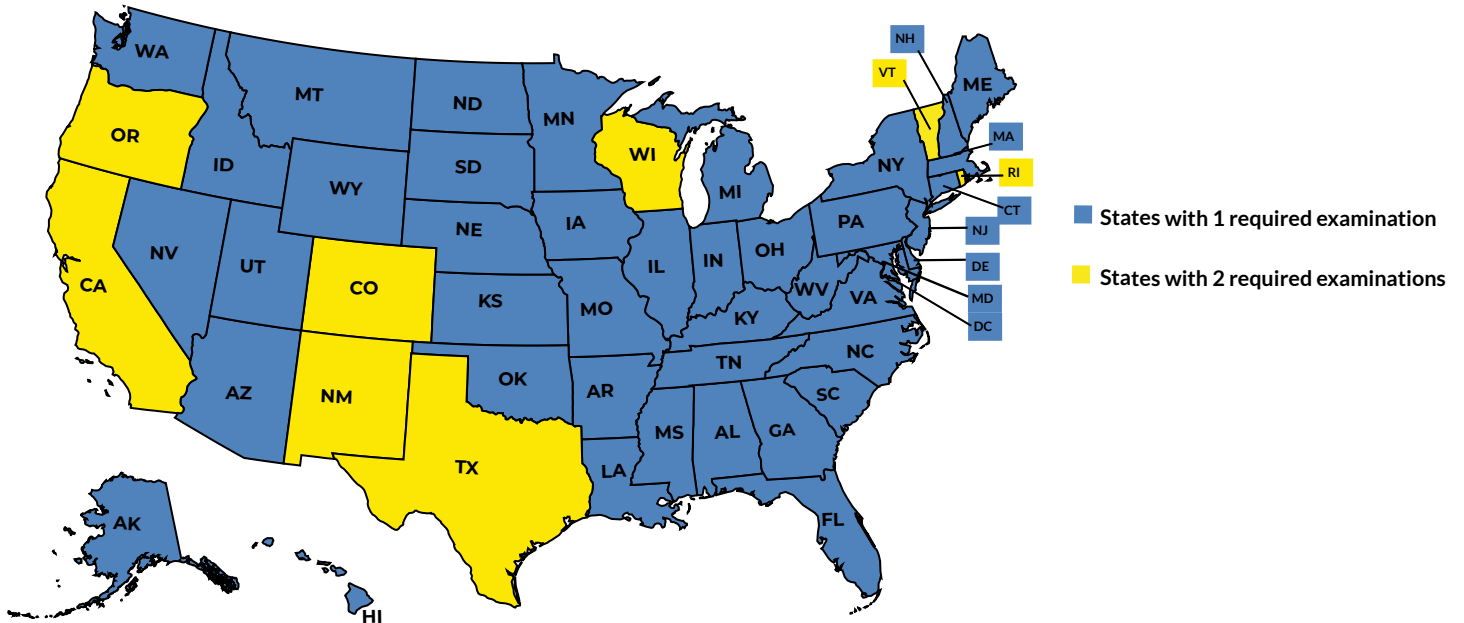
A social worker has special knowledge of social resources, human personality and capabilities and therapeutic techniques and how to use them to help people to achieve adequate and productive personal, interpersonal and social adjustments in their individual lives, in their families and in their community.

Clinical Social Worker

Degree Requirement

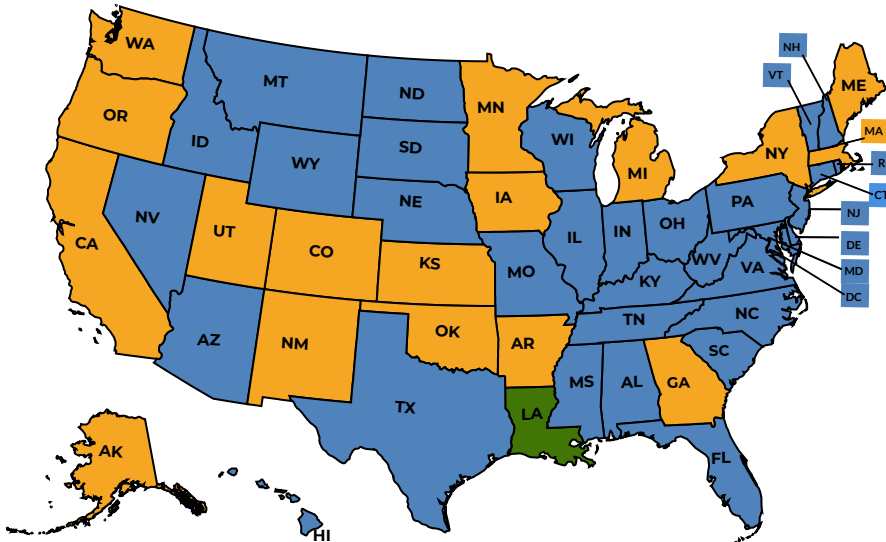


Examination Requirement

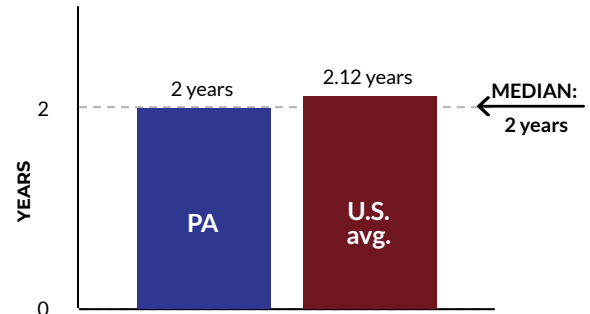


Clinical Social Worker

Training / Experience Requirement



- 2 yrs
- 3 yrs
- 4 yrs



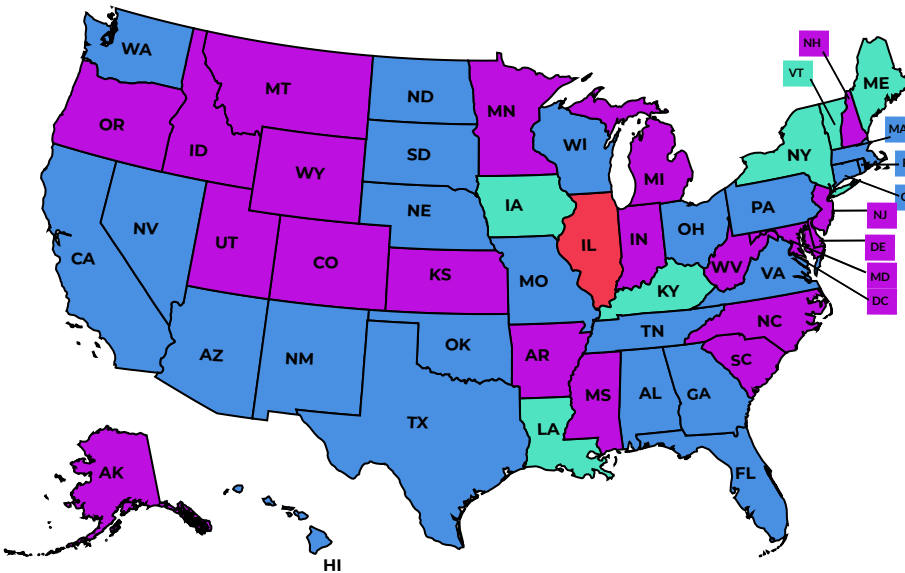
* Experience scale

2 years = <3,200 hours

3 years = 3,200 hours - 4,800 hours

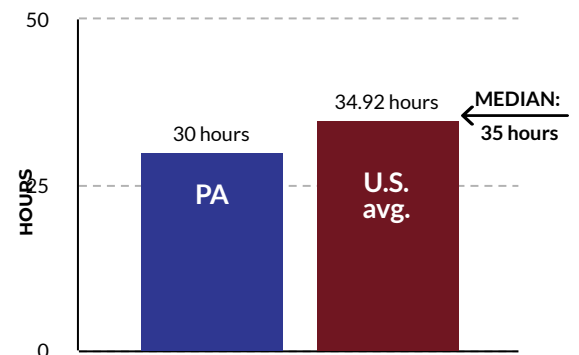
4 years = >4,800 hours

Continuing Education Requirement



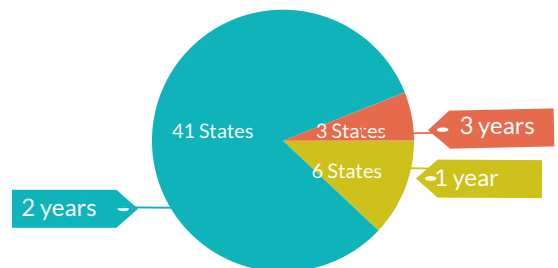
* To allow for comparison, CE requirements have been adjusted to 2-year reporting cycles.

- 20 - 29 CE hours/2 yrs
- 30 - 39 CE hours/2 yrs
- 40 - 49 CE hours/2 yrs
- 50 - 60 CE hours/2 yrs



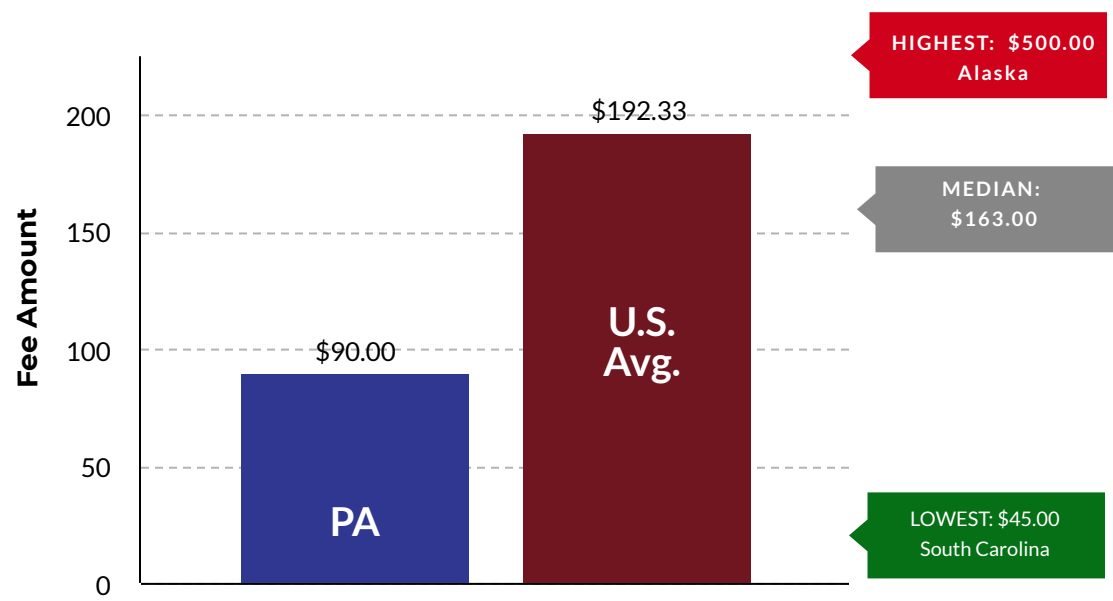
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CE Reporting Cycles



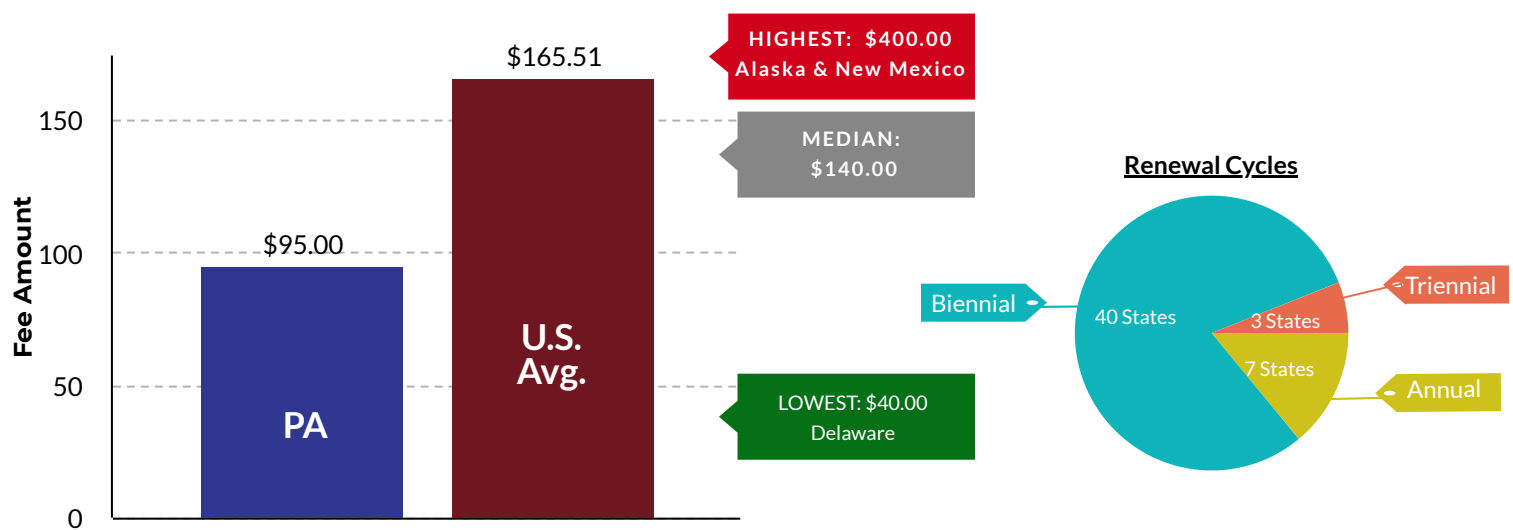
Clinical Social Worker

Initial Licensing Fee



* Initial licensing fee comparison excludes examination fees, background check fees, and finger printing fees.

Renewal Fees



*To allow for comparisons, all fees have been adjusted to biennial renewal cycles

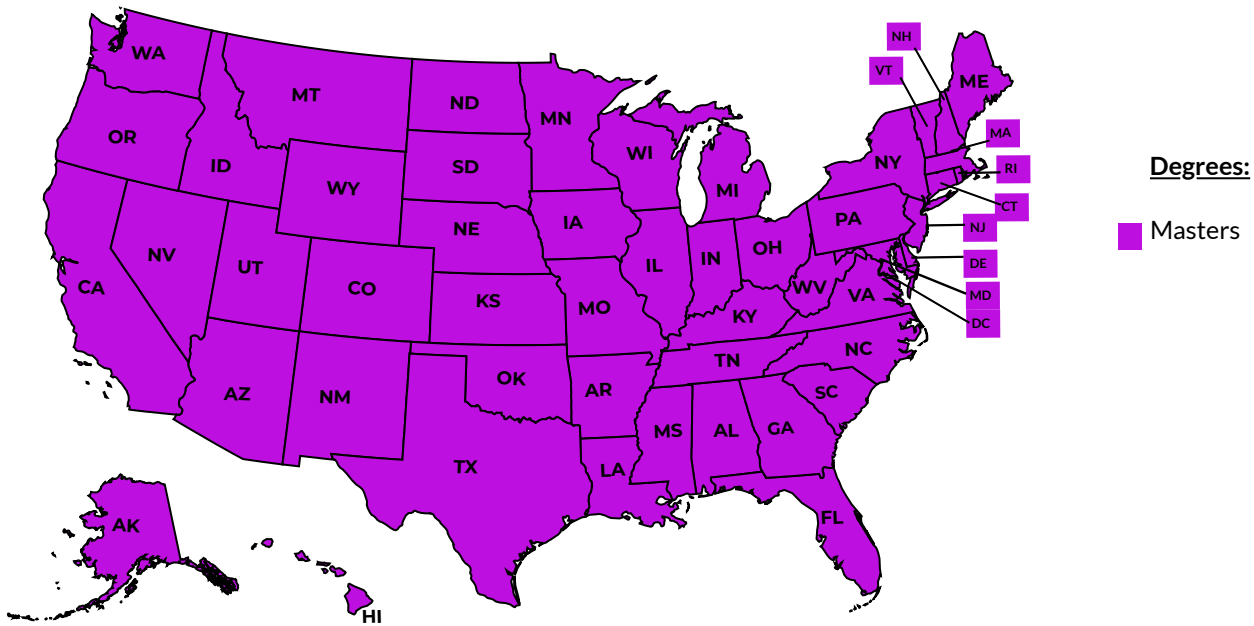
Clinical Social Worker

States with Reciprocity or Endorsement

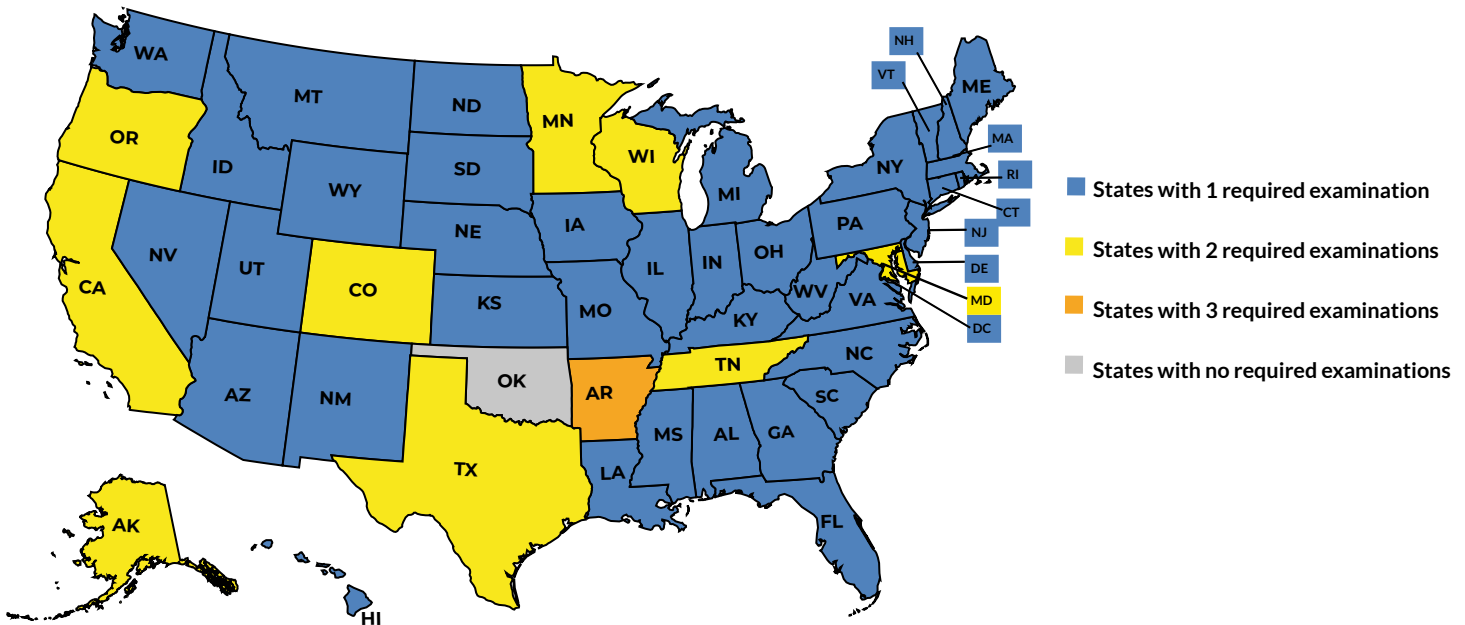
<u>Endorsement</u>	<u>Reciprocity</u>	<u>Endorsement or Reciprocity</u>
Arizona	Alabama	Hawaii
Colorado	Arkansas	Louisiana
Connecticut	Delaware	Mississippi
District of Columbia	Indiana	Oklahoma
Florida	Iowa	
Idaho	Kansas	
Illinois	Kentucky	
Maryland	Maine	
Michigan	Massachusetts	<u>Credentials</u>
Minnesota	Missouri	Alaska
Montana	Nebraska	
Nevada	New Mexico	
New Jersey	North Dakota	<u>Not specified in legislation</u>
New York	Ohio	California
North Carolina	South Dakota	Georgia
Pennsylvania**	Tennessee	New Hampshire
Rhode Island	Wisconsin	Oregon
Texas	Wyoming	South Carolina
Utah		West Virginia
Vermont		
Virginia		
Washington		

**Act 41, signed by Governor Wolf on July 2, 2019, allows for portability of out-of-state professional licensees coming to work in Pennsylvania. Act 41 does this by granting all boards and commissions within the Commonwealth the authority to immediately endorse licensee from other states, territories or jurisdictions (with substantially equivalent licensing requirements) who are active, in good standing and without discipline against their license or criminal conviction. If a licensee comes from a jurisdiction that does not have substantially equal requirements for licensure, then the boards/commissions may grant a provisional license for a period of such time to allow the new resident to meet the necessary requirements, allowing them access to gainful employment in the interim.

Marriage & Family Therapist Degree Requirement

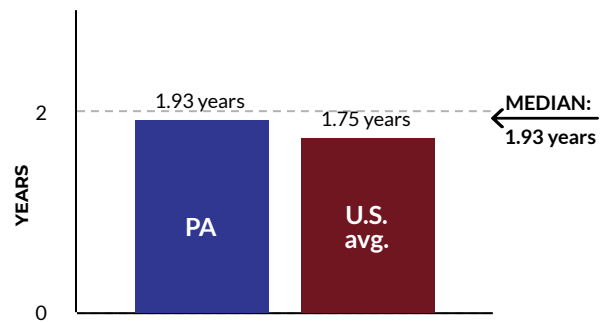
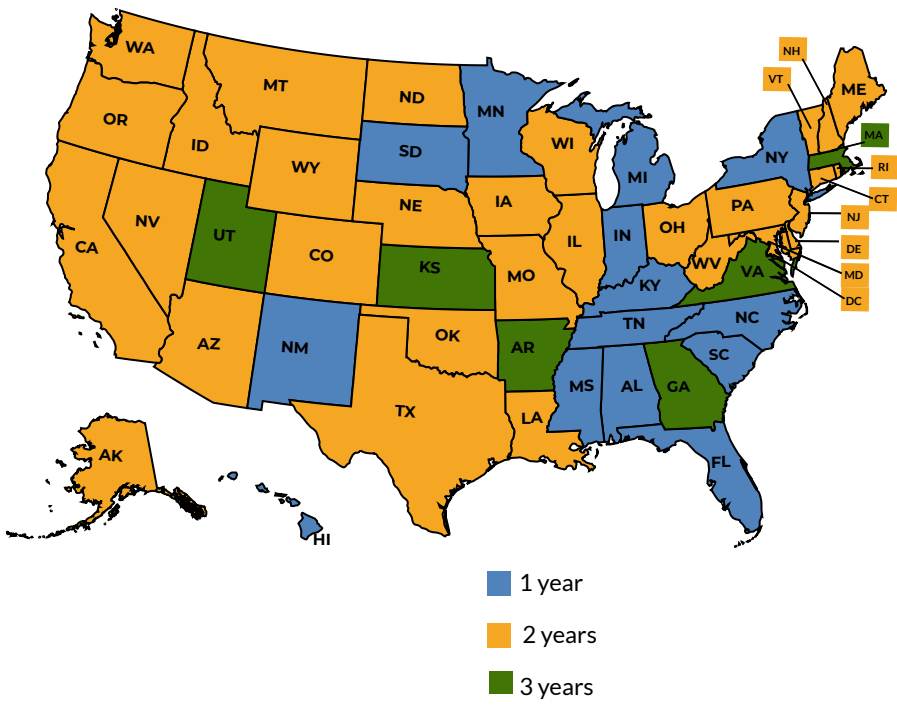


Examination Requirement



Marriage & Family Therapist

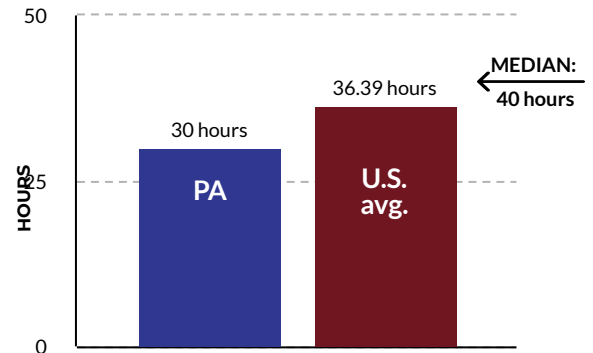
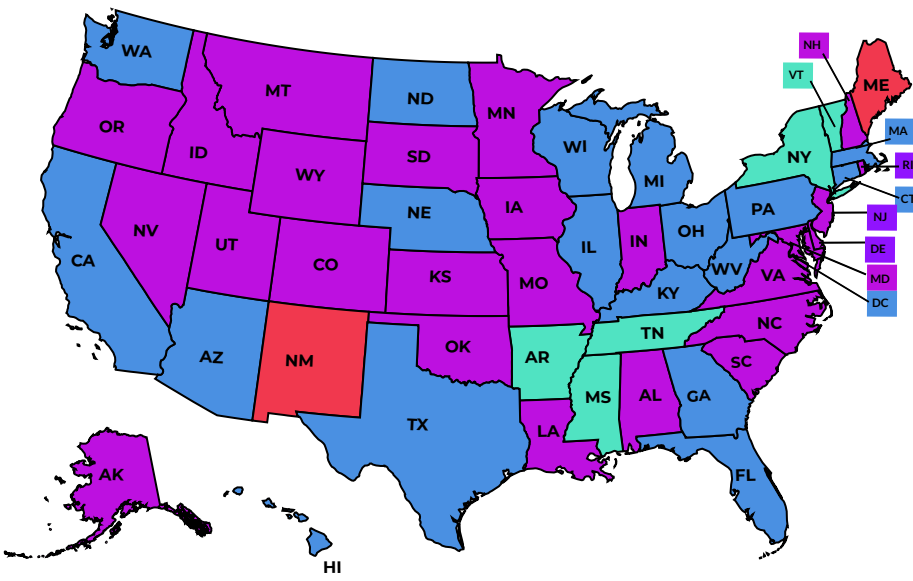
Training / Experience Requirement



* Experience scale

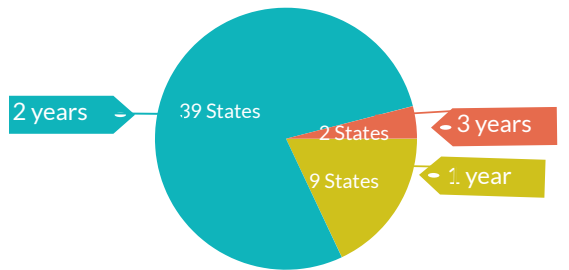
1 year = 1,600 hours or less
 2 years = 3,200 hours or less
 3 years = 3,200 hours - 4,800 hours

Continuing Education Requirement



* To allow for comparison, CE requirements have been adjusted to 2-year reporting cycles.

CE Reporting Cycles

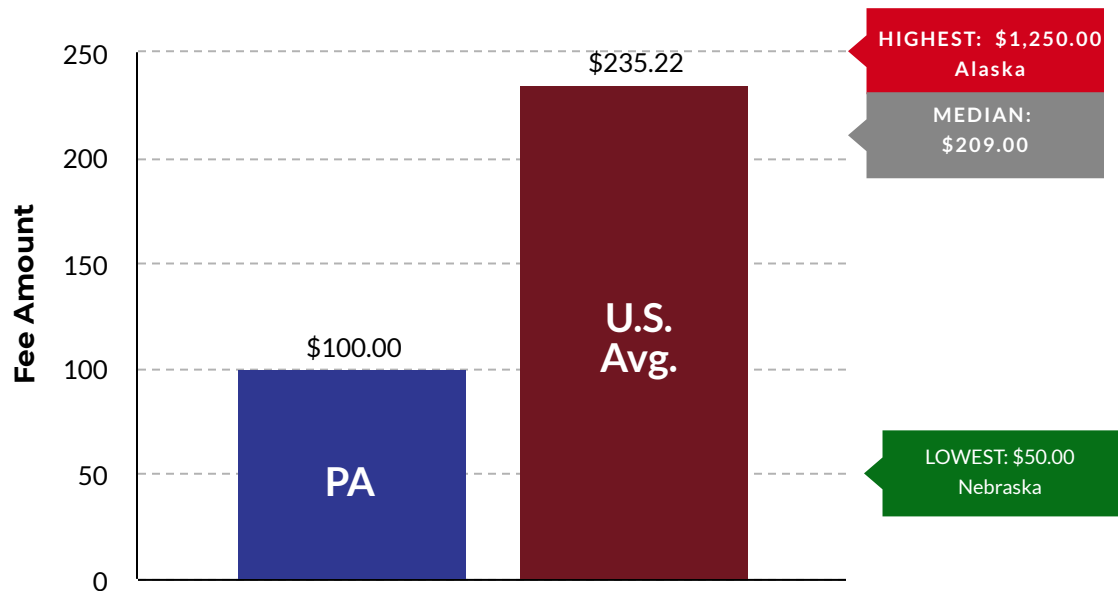


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- 50 - 60 CE hours/2 yrs

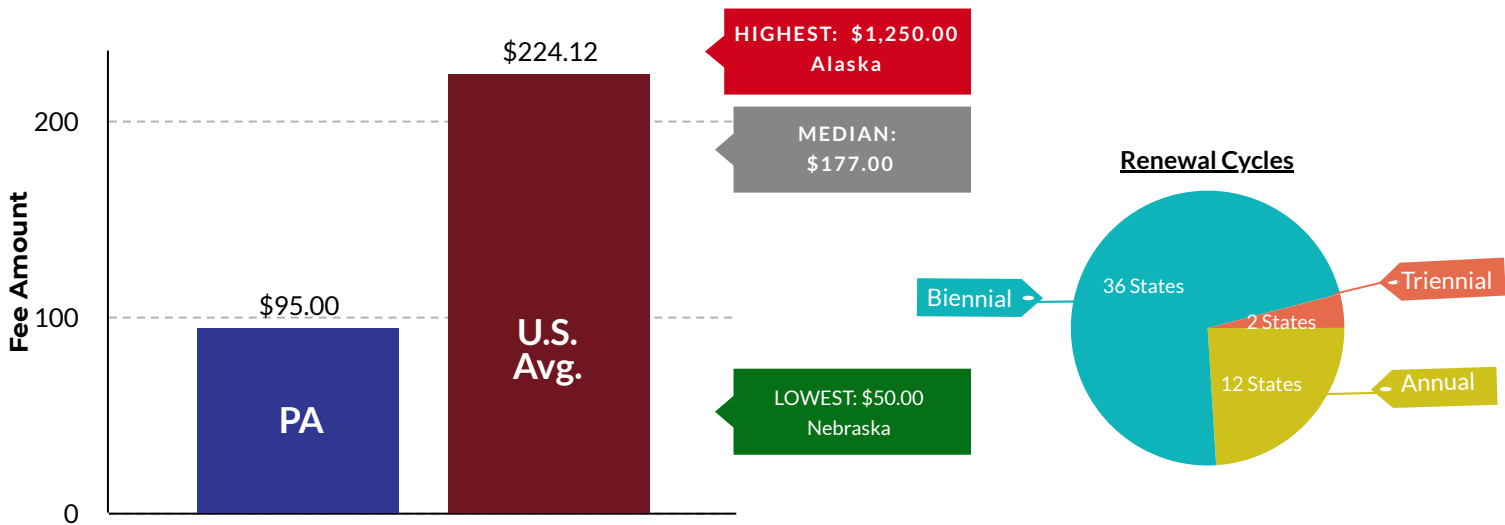
Marriage & Family Therapist

Initial Licensing Fee



* Initial licensing fee comparison excludes examination fees, background check fees, and finger printing fees.

Renewal Fees



*To allow for comparisons, all fees have been adjusted to biennial renewal cycles

Marriage & Family Therapist

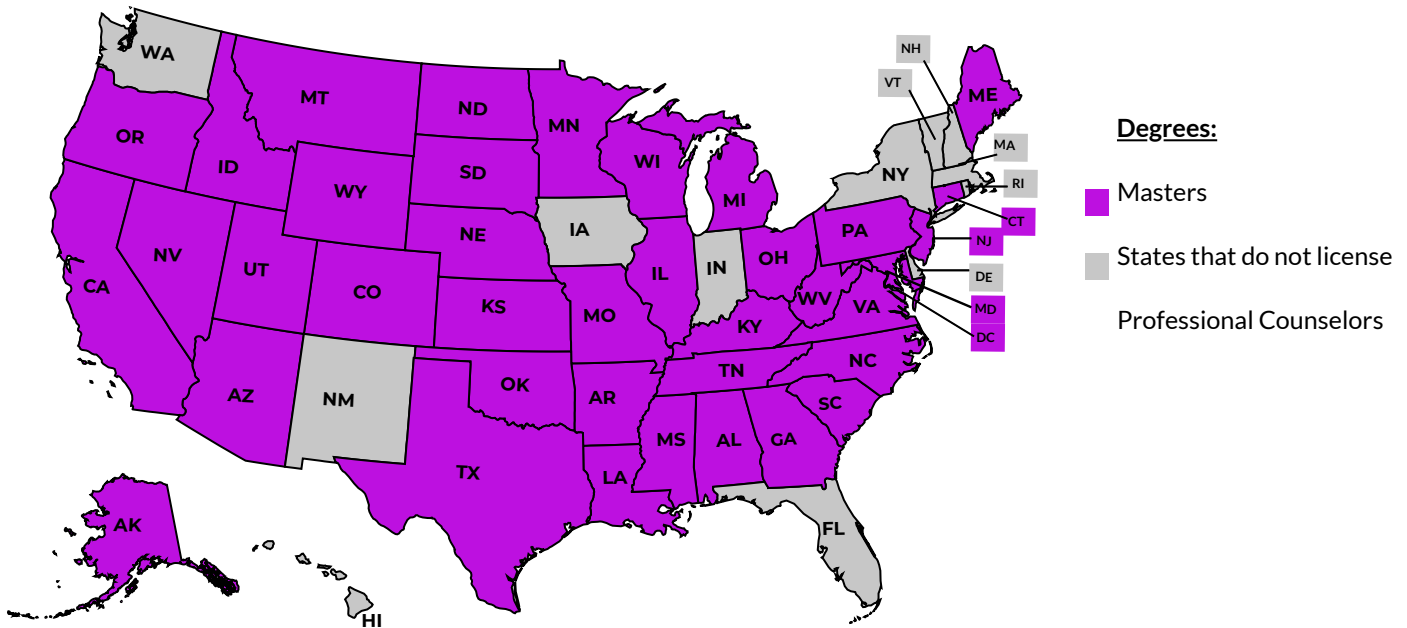
States with Reciprocity or Endorsement

<u>Endorsement</u>	<u>Reciprocity</u>	<u>Endorsement or Reciprocity</u>
Alabama	Delaware	Hawaii
Alaska	Massachusetts	Idaho
Arizona	Minnesota	Iowa
Arkansas	North Carolina	Kansas
California	Ohio	Kentucky
Colorado	Oregon	Louisiana
Connecticut	Wisconsin	Mississippi
Florida		Missouri
Georgia	<u>Credentials</u>	Montana
Illinois	New Jersey	Nebraska
Indiana		Nevada
Maine		New Mexico
Maryland		Oklahoma
Michigan		South Carolina
New Hampshire		South Dakota
New York		Tennessee
North Dakota		Texas
**Pennsylvania		Utah
Rhode Island		Virginia
Vermont		Washington
West Virginia		Wyoming

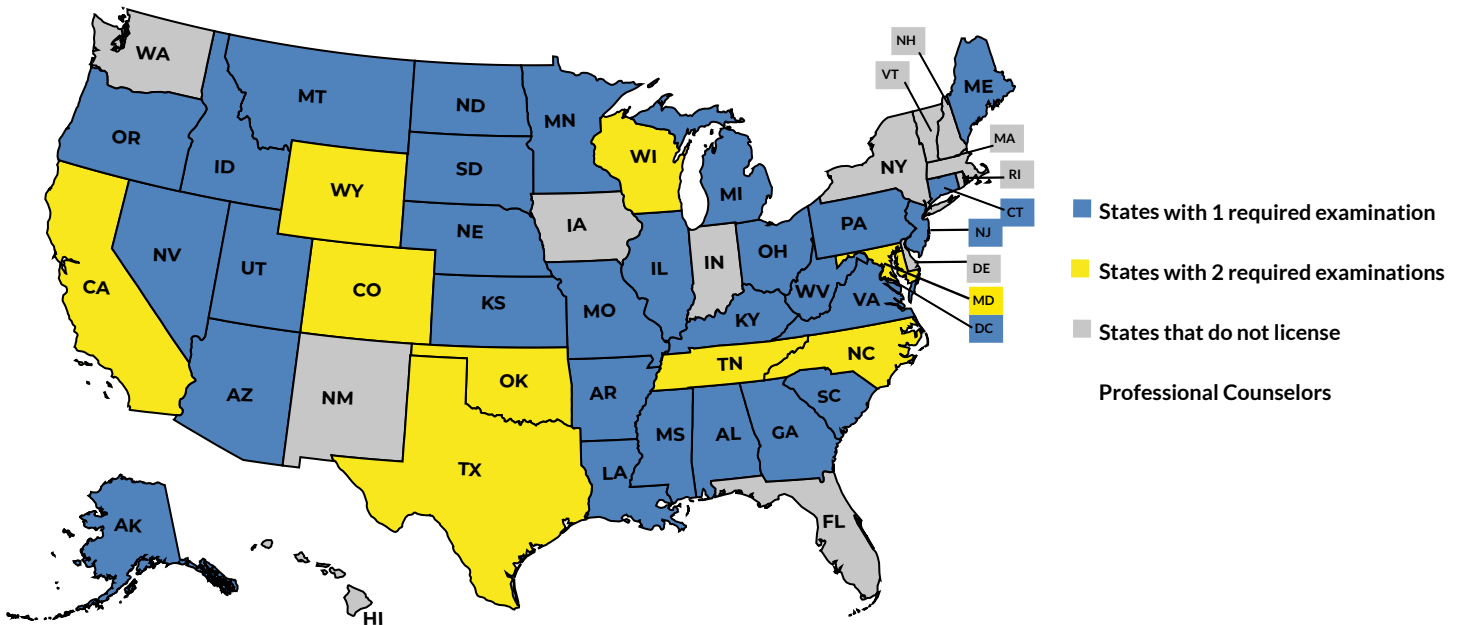
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Professional Counselor

Degree Requirement

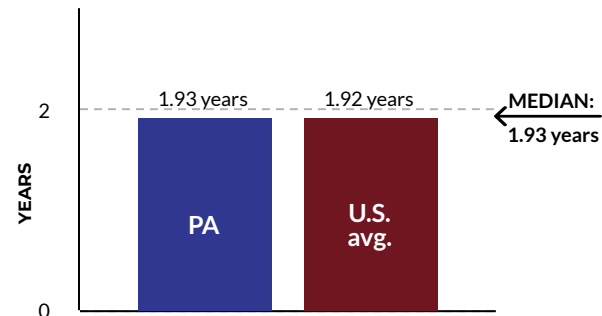
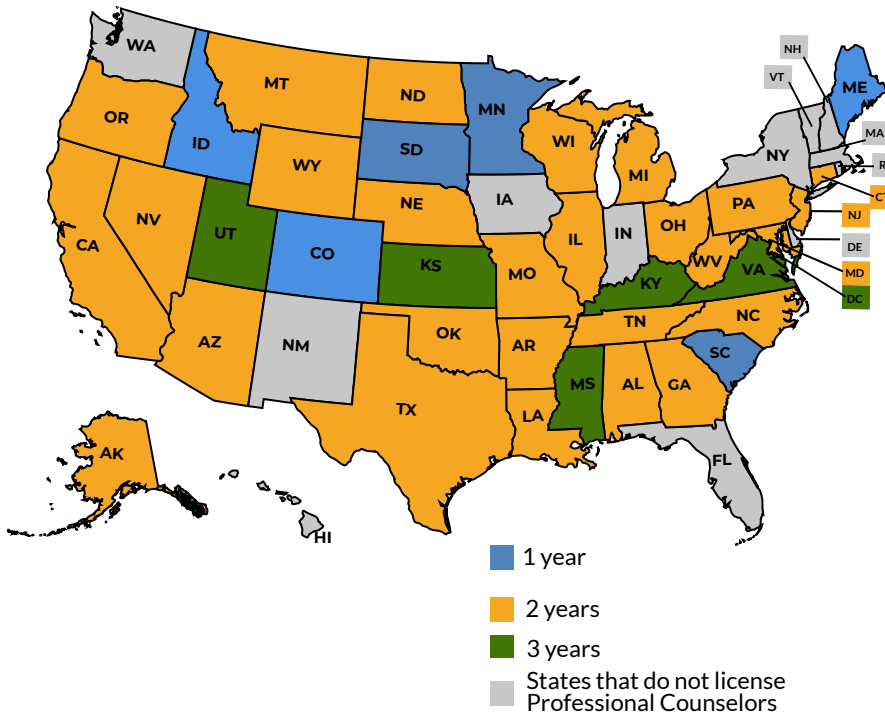


Examination Requirement



Professional Counselor

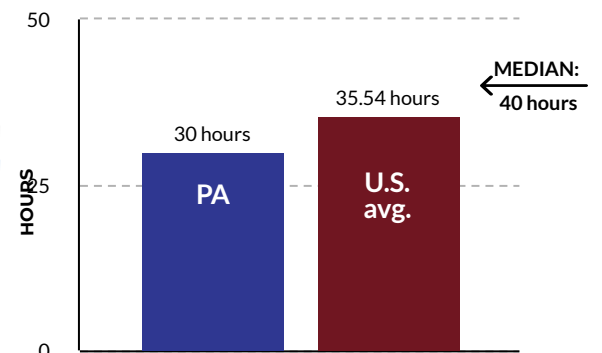
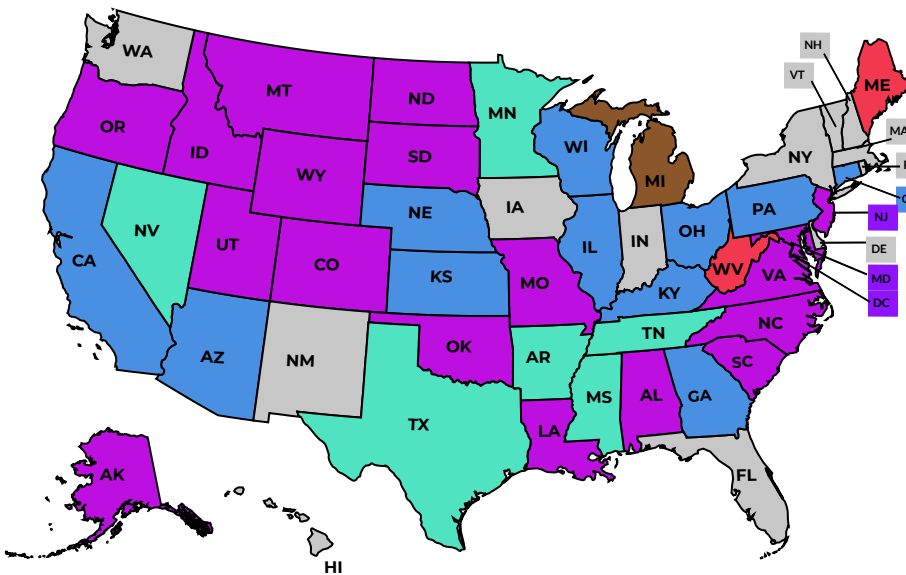
Training / Experience Requirement



* Experience scale

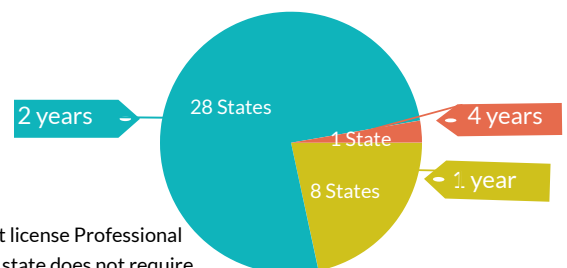
- 1 year = 1,600 hours or less
- 2 years = 1,600 hours - 3,200 hours
- 3 years = 3,200 hours - 4,800 hours

Continuing Education Requirement



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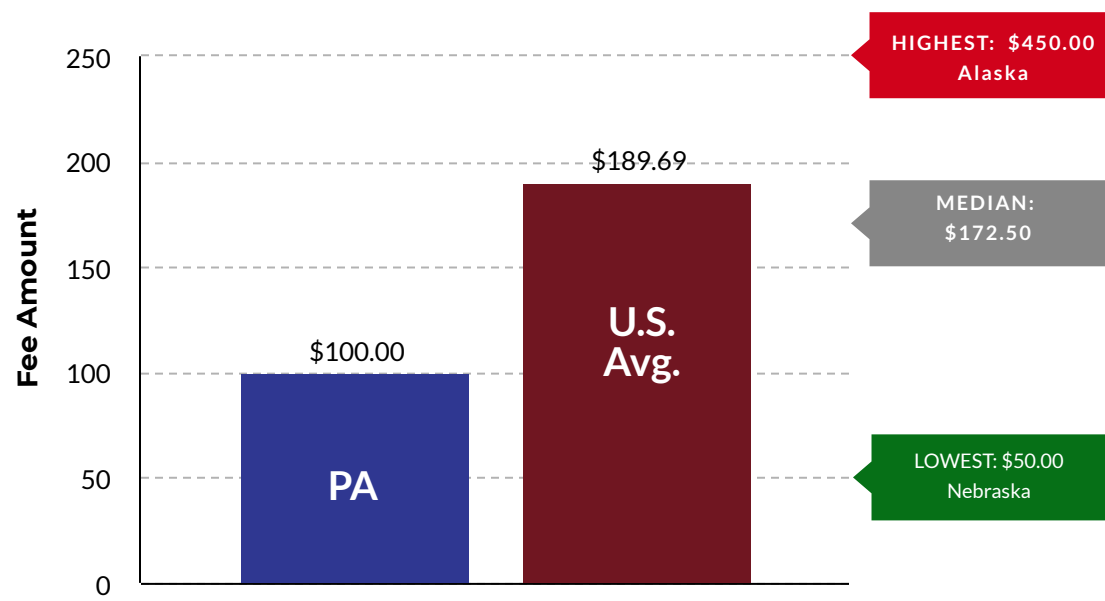
CE Reporting Cycles



*12 states do not license Professional Counselors and 1 state does not require CE hours for licensure.

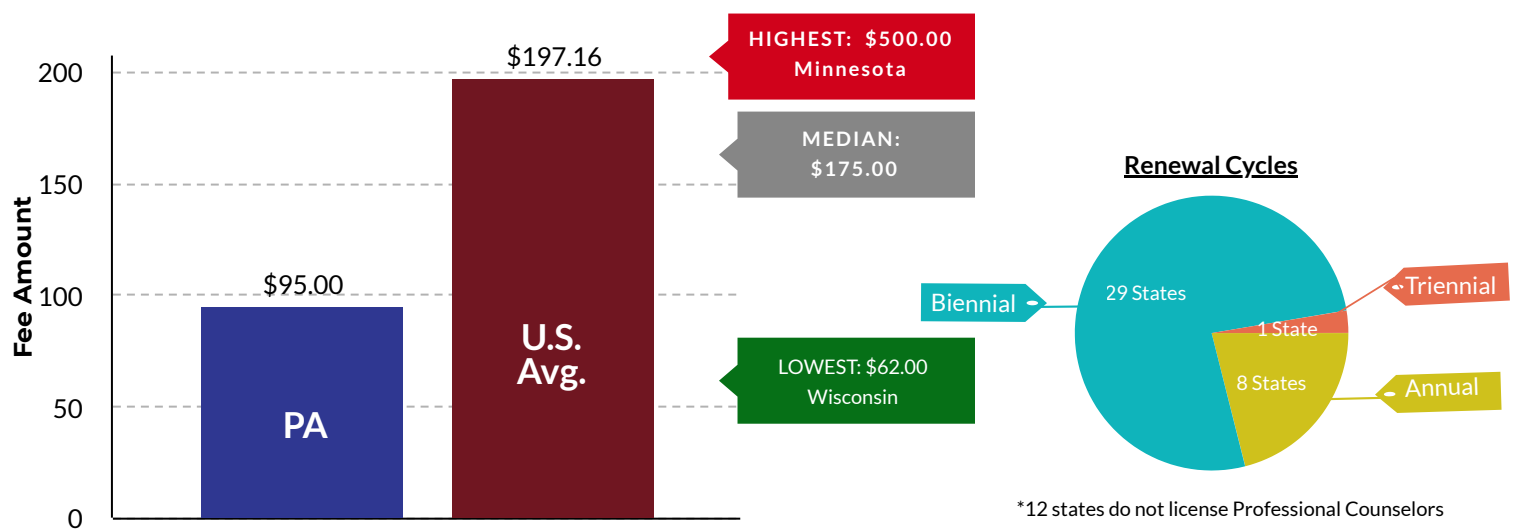
Professional Counselor

Initial Licensing Fee



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Renewal Fees



*To allow for comparisons, all fees have been adjusted to biennial renewal cycles

*12 states do not license Professional Counselors

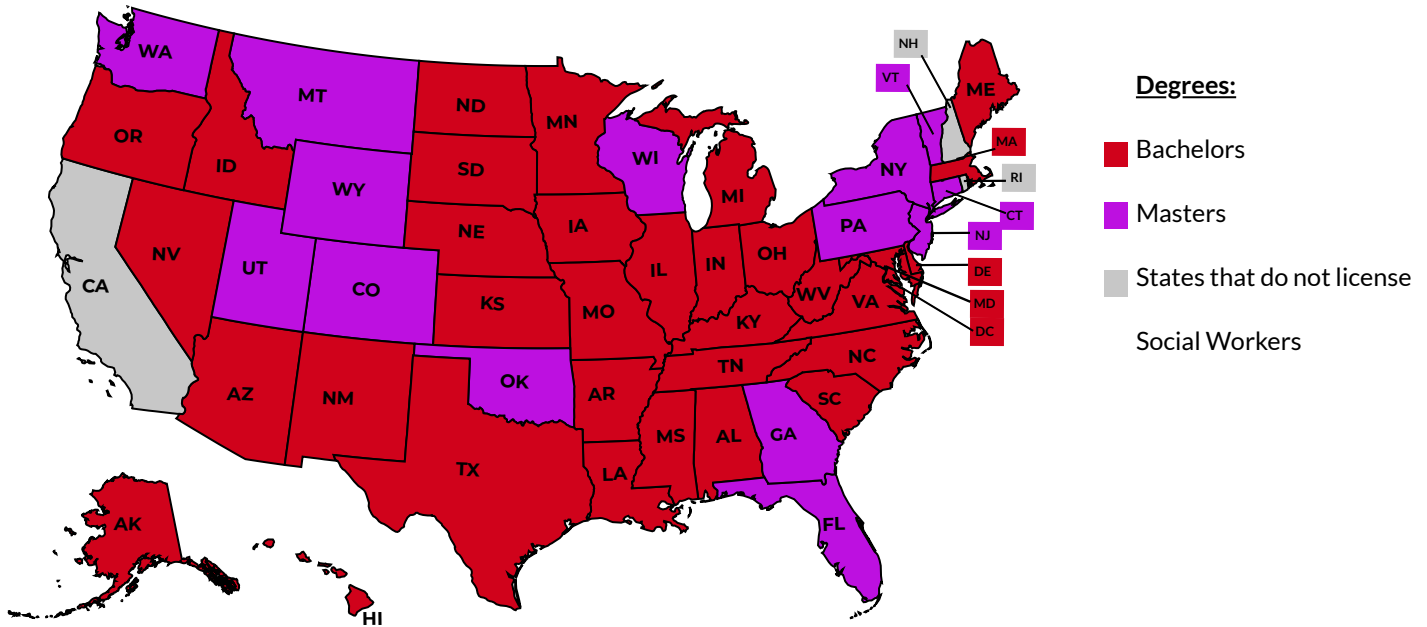
Professional Counselor

States with Reciprocity or Endorsement

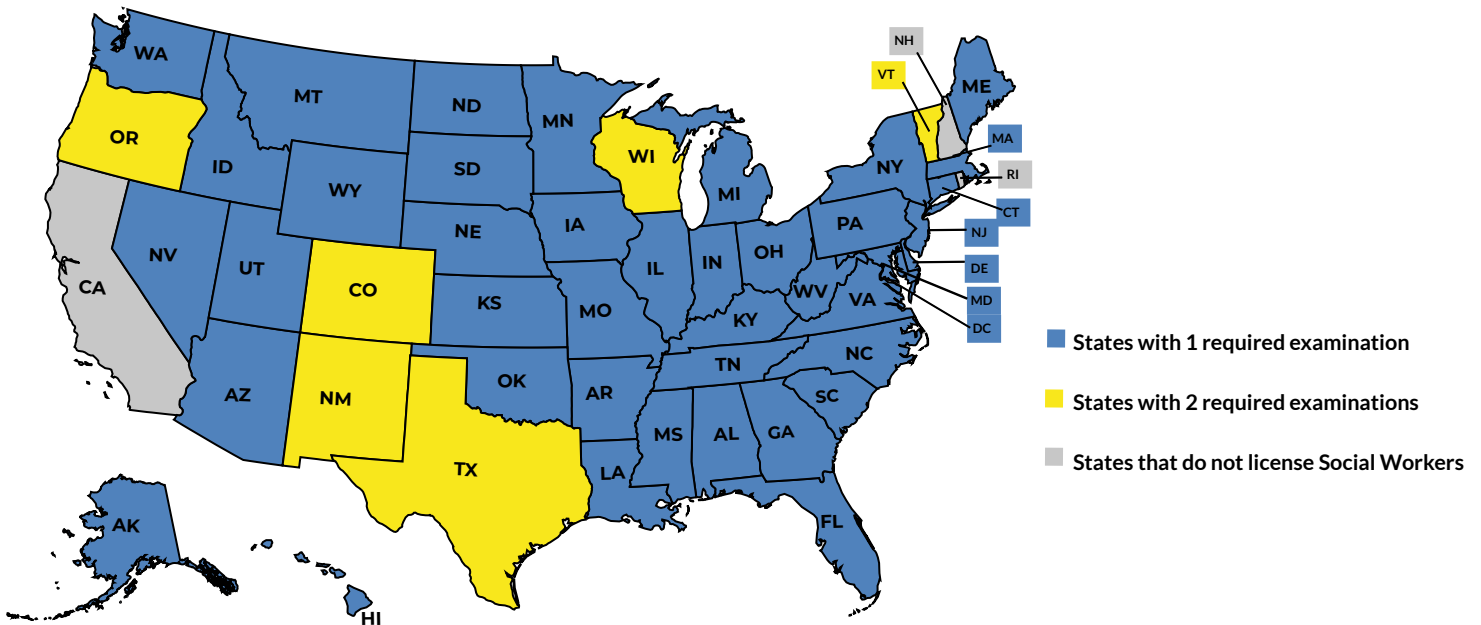
<u>Endorsement</u>	<u>Reciprocity</u>	<u>Not Specified in Legislation</u>
Alabama	Alaska	Arkansas
Arizona	California	Mississippi
Colorado	Kansas	
Connecticut	Kentucky	
Georgia	Minnesota	
Idaho	Missouri	
Illinois	North Dakota	
Louisiana	Ohio	
Maine	Oregon	
Maryland	South Dakota	
Michigan	Tennessee	
Montana	Texas	
New Jersey	Wisconsin	
North Carolina	Wyoming	
Oklahoma	<u>Endorsement or Reciprocity.</u>	
Pennsylvania**	Virginia	
South Carolina		
Utah		
West Virginia		

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Social Worker Degree Requirement

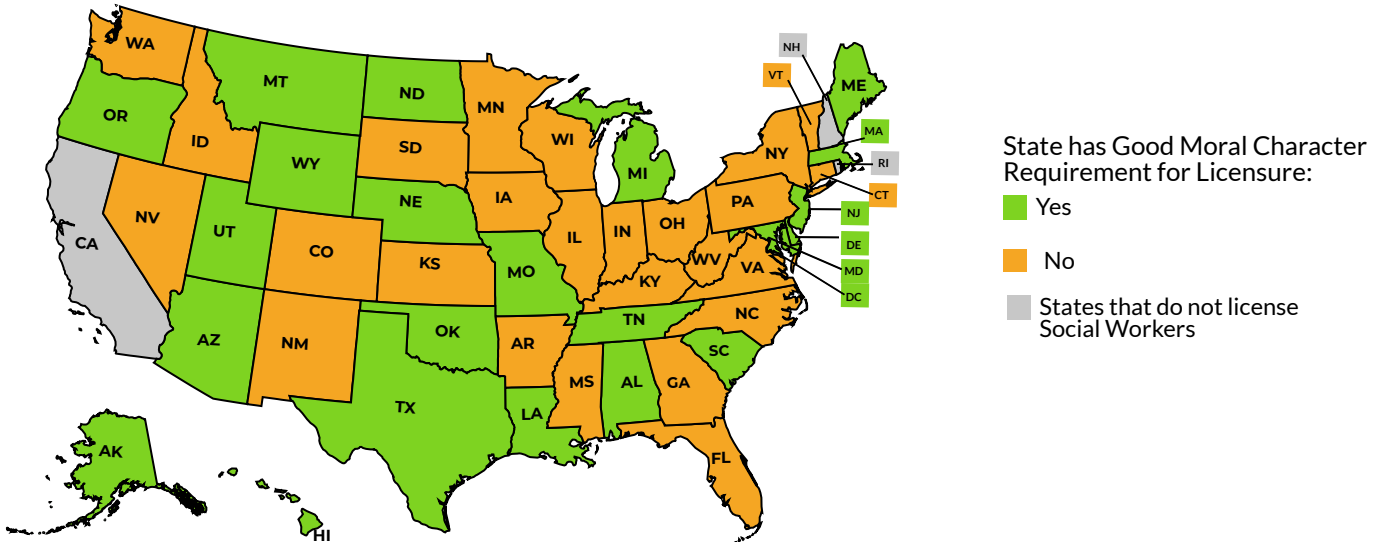


Examination Requirement

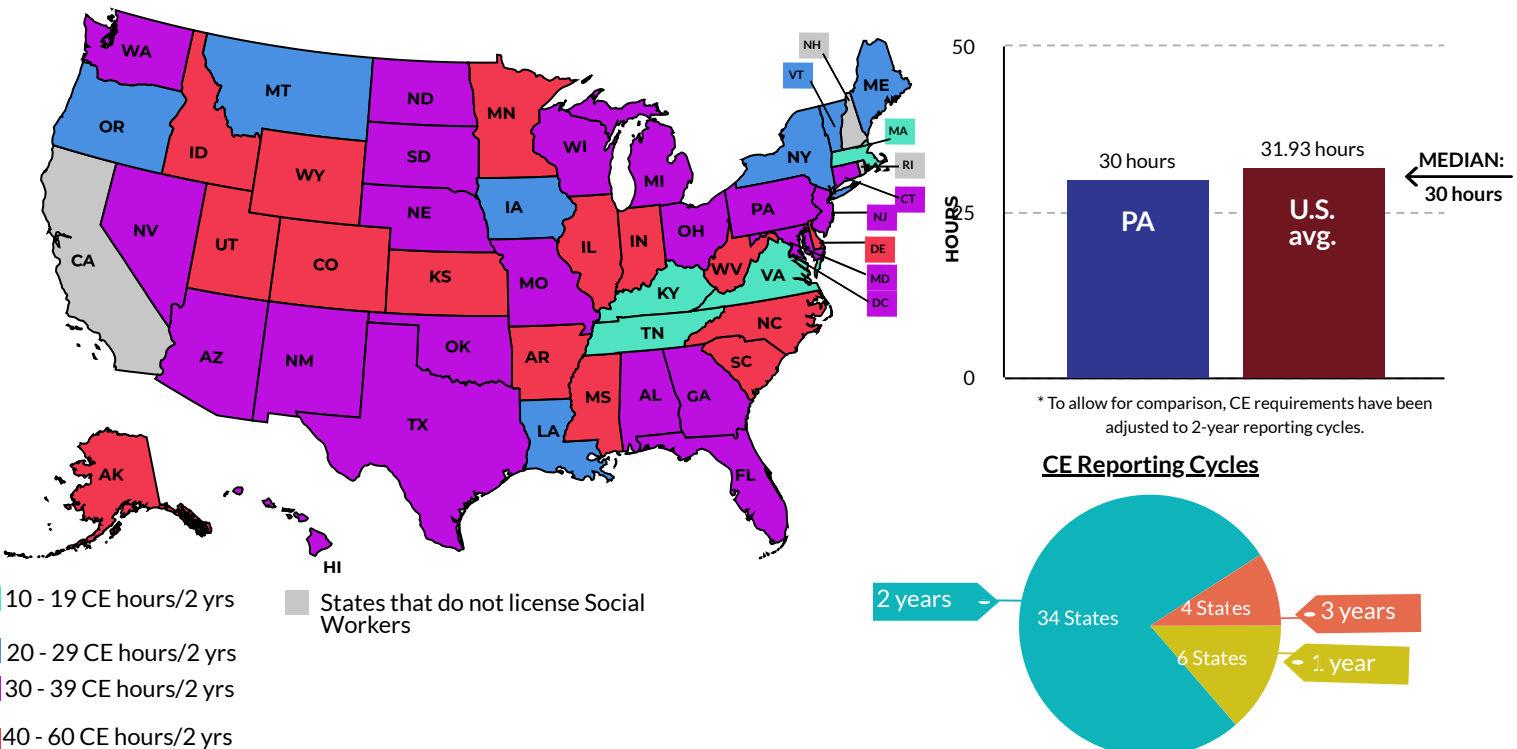


Social Worker

Good Moral Character Requirement

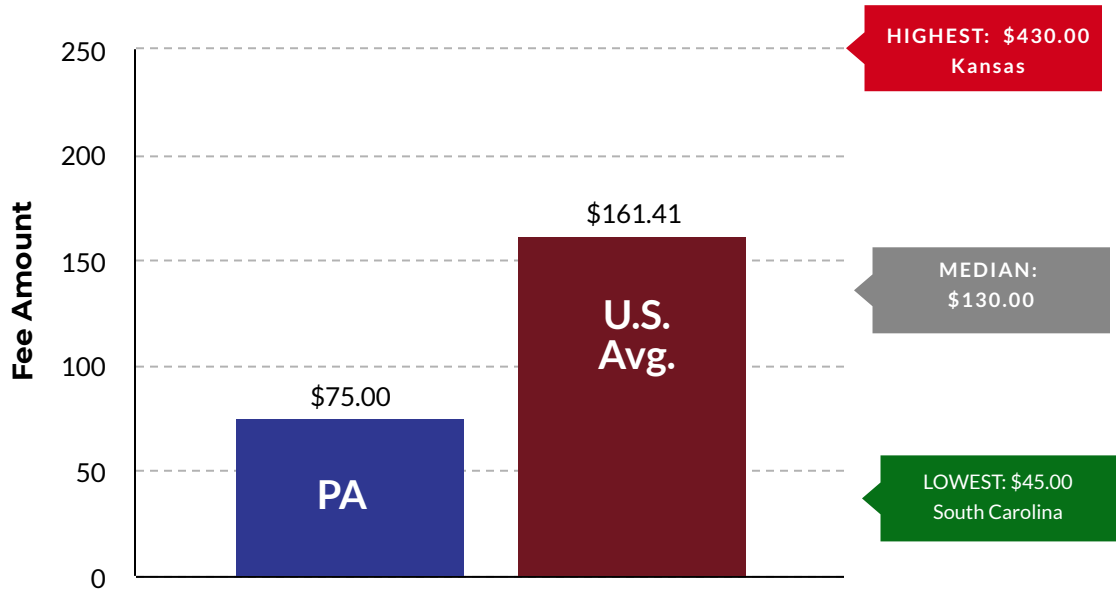


Continuing Education Requirement



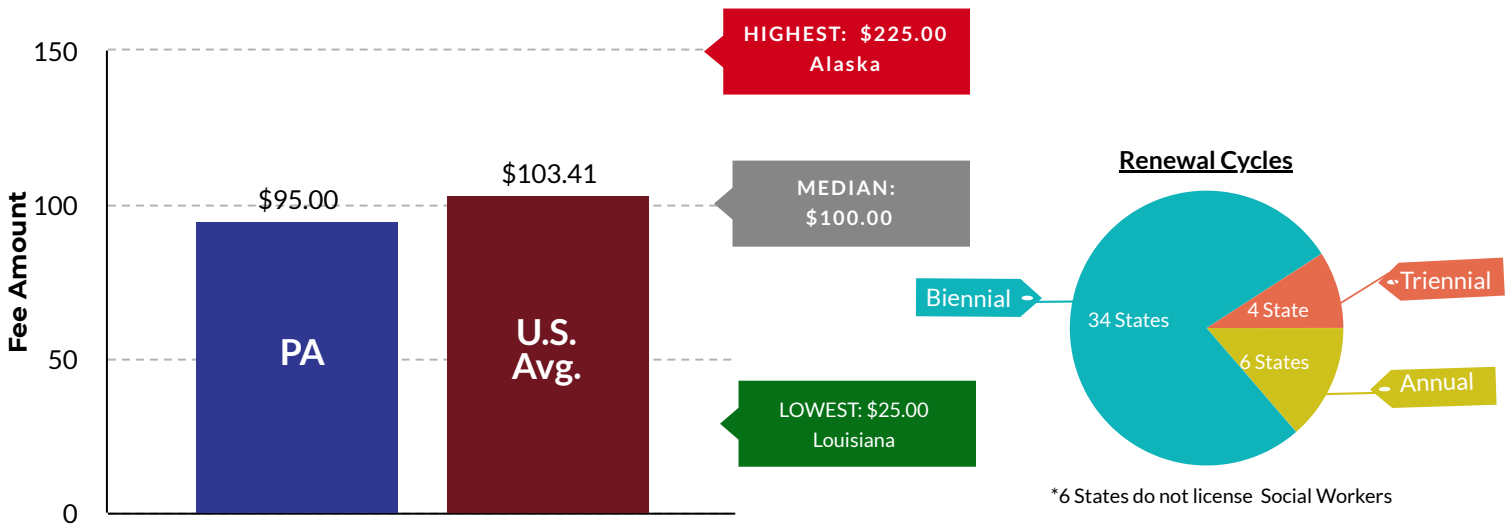
Social Worker

Initial Licensing Fee



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Renewal Fees



*To allow for comparisons, all fees have been adjusted to biennial renewal cycles

Social Worker

States with Reciprocity or Endorsement

<u>Endorsement</u>	<u>Reciprocity</u>	<u>Endorsement or Reciprocity</u>
Alaska	Alabama	Hawaii
Arizona	Arkansas	Louisiana
Colorado	Indiana	Mississippi
Connecticut	Iowa	<u>States that do not license</u>
Florida	Kansas	<u>Social Workers</u>
Idaho	Kentucky	California
Illinois	Maine	Delaware
Maryland	Massachusetts	Montana
Michigan	Missouri	New Hampshire
Minnesota	Nebraska	Rhode Island
Nevada	New Mexico	<u>Not specified in legislation</u>
New Jersey	North Dakota	Georgia
New York	Ohio	Oregon
North Carolina	Oklahoma	South Carolina
Texas	South Dakota	West Virginia
Utah	Tennessee	
Vermont	Wisconsin	ACT 41
Virginia	Wyoming	**Pennsylvania
Washington		

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Sources: State Licensing Boards

Alabama http://socialwork.alabama.gov/default.aspx	Maryland https://health.maryland.gov/bswe/Pages/default.aspx	Oregon http://www.oregon.gov/BLSW/Pages/index.aspx
Alaska https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/professionallicensing/socialworkexaminers.aspx	Massachusetts https://www.mass.gov/social-worker-licensing	Pennsylvania http://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardsCommissions/SocialWorkersMarriageandFamilyTherapistandProfessionalCounselors/Pages/default.aspx
Arizona http://www.azbbhe.us/	Michigan http://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/Social_Work_517676_7.pdf	South Carolina http://www.lir.state.sc.us/POL/SocialWorkers/
Arkansas http://www.arkansas.gov/swlb/	Minnesota https://mn.gov/boards/social-work/	South Dakota https://dss.sd.gov/licensingboards/social.aspx
Colorado https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dora/Social_Work	Mississippi http://dsitspe01.its.ms.gov/swmft/web.nsf/webpageedit/swPage_swPage_swliSub/\$FILE/SOCIAL%20WORK%20LICENSURE%20INFORMATION.pdf?OpenElement	Tennessee https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/sw-board.html
Connecticut http://www.portal.ct.gov/DPH/Practitioner-Licensing-Investigations/Socialworker/LCSW-Licensing-Requirements	Missouri http://pr.mo.gov/socialworkers.asp	Texas https://www.dshs.texas.gov/socialwork/
District of Columbia https://doh.dc.gov/service/social-work-licensing	Nebraska http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/pages/crIMHPSWHome.aspx	Utah https://dopl.utah.gov/licensing/social_work.html
Florida http://floridasmentalhealthprofessions.gov/licensing/licensed-clinical-social-worker/	Nevada http://socwork.nv.gov/	Vermont https://www.sec.state.vt.us/professional-regulation/list-of-professions/social-workers.aspx
Georgia http://sos.ga.gov/index.php/licensing/plb/43	New Jersey http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/sw/Pages/regulations.aspx	Virginia https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/social/
Hawaii http://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/programs/socialworker/	New Mexico http://www.rld.state.nm.us/boards/social_work.aspx	Washington https://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/ProfessionsNewReneworUpdate/SocialWorker
Idaho https://ibol.idaho.gov/IBOL/BoardPage.aspx?Bureau=swo	New York http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/sw/lmsw.htm	West Virginia http://www.wvsocialworkboard.org/LawsRules.aspx
Illinois https://www.idfpr.com/profs/SocialWorker.asp	North Carolina http://www.ncswboard.org/index.html	Wisconsin https://dsps.wi.gov/pages/Professions/SocialWorker/Default.aspx
Indiana https://www.in.gov/pla/3030.htm	North Dakota https://www.ndbswe.com/	Wyoming http://mentalhealth.wyo.gov/
Iowa https://idph.iowa.gov/Licensure/Iowa-Board-of-Social-Work	Ohio http://cswmft.ohio.gov/Portals/0/pdf/CSWMFT%20Board%20Laws%20and%20Rules%204757.pdf	
Kansas https://ksbsrb.ks.gov/professions/social-workers	Oklahoma https://www.ok.gov/socialworkers/	
Kentucky https://bsw.ky.gov/Pages/index.aspx		
Louisiana https://www.labswe.org/		
Maine http://www.maine.gov/pfr/professionallicensing/professions/social_workers/l.html		