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**CHANGES TO SOCIAL WORK LICENSING EXAMINATIONS, FREE EXAM PROGRAM WILL BEGIN JANUARY 1, 2011**

Beginning January 1, 2011, the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) social work licensure examinations used in the United States and Canada will undergo several changes, ranging from the reorganization of test content to the use of new testing sites. The first half of the year will also feature a program that will qualify some test-takers for a free Advanced Generalist examination as part of a data-gathering project.

As previously announced, ASWB has completed its most recent analysis of social work practice in North America, and will be using new Bachelors, Masters, and Clinical social work licensure examinations based on this study in early 2011. A new Advanced Generalist examination will be implemented in early 2012.

In addition to reorganized content for all five licensure examinations used across the United States and in two Canadian provinces, the association has published—for the first time—the knowledge statements that describe specific competencies that will be addressed in the examinations. The availability of the entire set of KSAs (Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities) will assist boards, educational programs and others in “demystifying” the entire examination process. Content outlines and KSA lists are contained in the practice analysis final report, which can be downloaded in its entirety at [www.aswb.org](http://www.aswb.org). The Advanced Generalist examination will not change over to the new content outlines and KSAs until January 1, 2012.

At the same time the reorganized ASWB tests are released, the association will also begin working with a new testing vendor, Pearson VUE, of Bloomington, Minnesota, for administration and support of the ASWB social work licensing examinations. The change to Pearson VUE will include the use of new test center locations and will allow for several enhancements to the testing experience for candidates. Pearson VUE is regarded as a leader in the testing industry, and provides examination administration and support services for many regulatory board and licensure examination organizations. To learn more about Pearson VUE and the clients it serves, visit the Pearson VUE website at [www.pearsonvue.com](http://www.pearsonvue.com).

January 1, 2011, will also mark the beginning of a special ASWB project aimed at redesigning its Advanced Generalist examination to provide a stronger base for advanced non-clinical social work practice across the United States and Canada. The new version of the ASWB Advanced Generalist licensure examination, set for release in 2012, will be even more directly targeted to advanced generalist practice than it has been in the past.

In order to accomplish this goal, ASWB will involve social workers in developing a bank of test questions that will ensure the ASWB exams remain effective measures of social work competence. Test-takers who participate in this effort will have their \$260 examination fee waived, and will be administered an examination with additional non-scored questions, and a longer time limit to complete the examination. The additional questions will be “pretest” items that will help ASWB develop a new 170-question Advanced Generalist exam that will be administered beginning January 1, 2012.

The free expanded Advanced Generalist examination will be the only examination offered by the association for all Advanced Generalist tests administered between January 1, 2011 and June 30, 2011 to first-time candidates. More information on the program can be found at the association’s website, [www.aswb.org](http://www.aswb.org).

The Association of Social Work Boards is the association of state and provincial social work regulatory bodies. Its mission is to assist its members through the development of uniform assessments and other services that strengthen protection of the public. Membership includes 49 states, the US Virgin Islands, the District of Columbia, and ten Canadian provinces.

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