

NOVEMBER 2020 FACT SHEET

I Want to be a Social Worker in North Dakota



Social work is professional application of social work values, principles, and techniques in helping people obtain tangible services; counseling; psychotherapy with individuals, families, and groups; helping communities or groups to improve social and health services; providing social casework; directly supervising programs providing social work services; social work education; social work research; or any combination of these. The practice of social work requires knowledge of human development and behavior, of social, economic, and cultural institutions, and the interaction of all these factors.

Education

Social Workers must have a degree in social work from a Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accredited degree program. In North Dakota there are a variety of programs and degrees from different institutions of higher education.

Licensed Baccalaureate Social Workers (LBSW) (formerly *Licensed Social Workers*) must have a bachelor's degree in social work. In North Dakota these programs are offered through the following institutions:

- University of North Dakota
- University of Mary
- Minot State University
- North Dakota State University
- Sitting Bull College (candidacy status with CSWE)

Licensed Master Social Workers (LMSW) (formerly *Licensed Certified Social Workers*) and *Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW)* (formerly *Licensed Independent Clinical Social Workers*) must have a master's degree or higher. In North Dakota these programs are offered at the University of North Dakota.

Licensure

Licensed Baccalaureate Social Workers (LBSW) must possess a baccalaureate degree in social work, pass an examination approved by the North Dakota Board of Social Work Examiners (NDBSWE), and agree to adhere to the code of social work ethics adopted by the NDBSWE.

Licensed Master Social Workers (LMSW) must possess a doctorate or master's degree in social work, pass an examination approved by the NDBSWE, and agree to adhere to the code of social work ethics adopted by the NDBSWE.

Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW) must possess a doctorate or master's degree in social work, pass an examination approved by the NDBSWE, complete 3,000 hours of supervised post-master's clinical social work experience within four years in which the initial 1,500 hours must be under the supervision of a clinical social worker, and agree to adhere to the code of social work ethics adopted by the NDBSWE.

Barriers

There are several barriers that are identified in the North Dakota Century Code that would prevent someone from entering into social work practice, or cause them to be removed from practice. They are listed below.

- Conviction of an offense determined to have a direct bearing upon an individual's ability to practice social work
- Addicted to the habitual use of alcoholic beverages, narcotics, or stimulants
- Violation of one or more of the rules and regulations of the board
- Violation of the NDBSWE code of ethics

Day-to-Day Practice

Social workers work in a wide range of situations. Day to day activities include identifying individuals, families, groups, and communities in need of help. Social workers also assess client's needs, strengths, and support networks to help identify goals. Moreover, they advocate for community resources and advocate for policy change on the local, state, and federal levels.

Data

North Dakota Hospital Assessment: 2017 Flex Chartbook