BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
Board of Social Work
(Amended at ARRS Committee)

201 KAR 23:120. Equivalency standard.

RELATES TO: KRS 335.070, 335.080,335.090, 335.100, 335.135***, 335.160***
STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS Chapter 13A, 335.070
CERTIFICATION STATEMENT:
NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS ***335.070(4)*** ~~***[335.070(5)]***~~ authorizes the Kentucky Board of Social Work to promulgate administrative regulations to carry out the provisions of KRS Chapter 335. KRS ***335.080(1)(b)*** ~~***[335.080(1)(c)]***~~ and ***335.090(1)(b)2*** ~~***[335.090(1)(c)2]***~~ authorize the board to approve educational institutions and determine equivalent course requirements for applicants seeking licensure as a certified social worker or licensed social worker. This administrative regulation establishes the equivalency standards for single-state licensure under KRS 335.080 and KRS 335.090. In accordance with the strict educational mandates of KRS 335.100(1)(a) and the Social Work Licensure Compact in KRS 335.135, these equivalency standards ***shall*** ~~***[do]***~~ not apply to applicants for a licensed clinical social worker license or a multistate license, both of which require a degree from an institution accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. ~~[This administrative regulation clarifies what the board will consider as equivalent education to that of a baccalaureate degree in social work or a social welfare program.]~~

Section 1. In determining equivalency, the board ***shall*** ~~***[will]***~~ compare any program to that of a master's or bachelor's degree from a Council on Social WorkEducation (CSWE)~~[CSWE (council of social work educators)]~~ accredited school. In determining equivalency, the board ***shall*** ~~***[will]***~~ require that the educational content of a program shall include:

(1) Human behavior and the social environment;
(2) Social welfare policy and service;
(3) Research;
(4) Social work practice; and
(5) Educational practicum.

Section 2.

(1) In human behavior and the social environment emphasis ***shall*** ~~***[should]***~~ be placed on the psychosocial situation. Six (6) hours of ***these*** ~~***[such]***~~ courses ***shall*** ~~***[should]***~~ be at the upper division, or three (3) hours if ~~***[such is]***~~built on a base of psychological and sociological courses.

(2) Social welfare policy and service courses shall include at least three (3) hours at the upper division social work or social welfare courses, built on courses in political science and economics. In the absence of political science and economics, there shall be at least six (6) hours in the social welfare policies and services area.

(3) Research courses shall be one three (3) hour social research course based on ~~***[some kind of]***~~basic research.

(4) Social work practicum shall include six (6) hours of social work practice courses taught by an individual with an advanced degree in social work. In the absence of classes in lower division social work methods, three (3) additional hours shall be required in a lower division course, totaling nine (9) hours.

(5) Practicum shall be taught by an individual with an advanced degree in social work for at least 450 hours. Two (2) hours per week of supervision shall be required by an individual with an advanced degree in social work.

Section 3. Limitations on Equivalency.

(1) Equivalency established in Sections 1 and 2 of this administrative regulation only qualifies an applicant for a Kentucky single-state license as a licensed social worker under KRS 335.090 or a certified social worker under ***KRS*** 335.080.

(2) Equivalency established in this administrative regulation shall not apply to applicants for a licensed clinical social worker license under KRS 335.100.

(3) To qualify for a multistate license under KRS 335.135, an applicant shall hold a bachelor's or master's degree in social work from a program that ~~***[is]***~~ :

(a) ***Is*** accredited by the CSWE ~~***[;]***~~ or ~~***[(b)]***~~ in candidacy with CSWE at the time of the applicant's graduation and subsequently becomes accredited; and

(b) ~~***[(c)]***~~ Meets all other requirements for the multistate license as set forth in KRS 335.135.

Section 4. Background Check. ***Equivalency applicants shall:***

(1) ~~***[Equivalency applicants shall]***~~ Complete a background check in accordance with KRS 335.160 ***; and*** ~~***[.]***~~

(2) Pay the application fee of twenty-five (25) dollars required by 201 KAR 23:020 and the cost of the background check.

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