



National Association of Social Workers ~ California Chapter

LCSW Candidates Who Fail the California Law and Ethics Exam

Based on legislation, candidates who fail the California Law and Ethics Exam must complete 12 hours of law and ethics coursework *before* they can re-apply to retake the exam. However, the regulations do not mandate a specific set of topics to be covered or delineate a specific 12-hour course. This is because each applicant has different learning needs based on their experience, education, and training and their performance on the exam. **In other words, each applicant should do an assessment of his or her knowledge base in relation to the exam content and exam performance.**

Candidates should carefully evaluate the all exam related information and documents on the California State Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) website.

BBS Exam News (the most current information)
http://www.bbs.ca.gov/exams/exam_news.shtml

BBS Law and Ethics Exam Plan
http://www.bbs.ca.gov/pdf/publications/lcsw_2016-law-ethics_exam_plan.pdf

BBS Law and Ethics Exam Handbook
http://www.bbs.ca.gov/pdf/publications/lcle_handbook_01042016.pdf

BBS Request for Re-Examination
http://www.bbs.ca.gov/pdf/forms/re-exam_app_37a-298.pdf

Exam Questions
BBS.Exams@dca.ca.gov.

The following topics can be incorporated into the California Law and Ethics Exam: advertising; scope of practice; scope of competence; treatment of minors; confidentiality; dangerous patients; psychotherapist-patient privilege; record keeping; patient access to records; state and federal laws regarding confidentiality of patient health information; dual relationships; child abuse; elder and dependent adult abuse; online therapy; insurance reimbursement; civil liability; disciplinary actions; unprofessional conduct; ethics complaints and ethical standards; termination of therapy; standards of care; relevant family law; therapist disclosures to patients; differences in legal and ethical standards in different types of work settings; and licensing law and process.

NASW-California Chapter Online Coursework Options

Based on their specific needs, candidates can choose from the following online options:

Chose from three pre-organized online options equaling 12 hours of law and ethics coursework
https://www.socialworkweb.com/#/s/caprelawandethics#prelicense_12_hour_law_ethics

Choose 12 hours of coursework from the Law and Ethics online library
https://www.socialworkweb.com/#/s/camandatedrenewal_lcsw_mft

Law and Ethics Exam Content vs. Exam Prep Courses

The chapter's online and law and ethics coursework highlights and explores topics that can be incorporated into the Law and Ethics Exam and are accessed using the links listed above.

Exam prep courses generally include "test taking strategies and sample exam questions." Exam prep courses can be found by doing an Internet search for "CA Law and Ethics Exam Prep Courses."