



# Stony Brook School of Social Welfare

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Dear Graduating Students,

We hope you are enjoying a much needed break and that your holidays were peaceful and restorative. We are writing to you with important updates on licensing.

As you know, it's very important to take the LMSW exam soon after graduation. I want to share some of the exciting plans underway to help you pass the exam:

- 1) Starting in spring 2021, the School will offer a FREE non-credit bearing licensing preparation course to graduating students. Registration will take place via SOLAR, and there will be six sections of the class available for you to choose from. Each section will meet twice via Zoom either on a Saturday or Sunday during the Spring semester. We will let you know when the course opens for registration.
- 2) Students enrolled in the course will be required to purchase the LEAP Study Guide textbook and to take an online practice exam after the first class in March or April and prior to the second class in May. Although the timing may not ideal, this is the only way we could provide you these free licensing prep classes. We will offer a refresher in August for students who enrolled in the course and took the online practice exam.
- 3) In addition, we'll offer two mini review courses, one on Ethics and the other on the DSM.
- 4) The School is also providing free access to LEAP's online 170 question LMSW practice exam. You may take this online practice exam multiple times. Your scores will enable you to see the subject areas where you may need more review. The practice exam will be available to you for 3 months from May-July.
- 5) We will be creating a Google Drive folder that you'll have access to with PowerPoints and other resource material that will aid in your study preparations.

***We strongly encourage all of you to take advantage of these opportunities!***

If you plan to practice in NY, you should be taking the LMSW exam in NY. Here's why:

- 1) Graduates are eligible to apply for a limited permit to work as a social worker in NYS prior to taking the exam. The limited permit is valid for one year and cannot be renewed. HOWEVER, students who take and pass the ASWB Masters examination for licensure in another state (such as New Jersey), are not eligible for a limited permit under NYS law. This

may potentially impact your employment opportunities.  
<http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/sw/lmsw.htm>

To transfer a license from another state to NY, students must contact ASWB ([www.aswb.org](http://www.aswb.org)), pay an examination transfer fee and ask the state in which the license is held, to submit Form 3 to verify their license and disciplinary history. In addition to submitting the ASWB transfer application, fee for licensure and requesting the out of state documentation, applicants will need to request verification of the MSW degree from their school on Form 2. You will not be able to practice in NY as a LMSW until all your paperwork is transferred and has been reviewed.

- 2) The policies and procedures created by the New York State Education Department (NYSED), the licensing body, are intended to govern the conditions of social work practice in NY. As a SUNY institution, we are ethically obligated to be in compliance with these guidelines and to encourage our graduates to take the exam in NY.
- 3) Stony Brook receives (anonymous) exam results from NYSED only for students taking the licensing exam in NY. If you take the exam in another state such as New Jersey, it impacts our ability to receive a comprehensive picture of how our graduates did on the exam.
- 4) Our goal is to provide support so that all of you will pass the exam. Even if you don't pass the first time, please let us know so that we can continue to provide help. Please submit your results via an online portal ([https://stonybrookuniversity.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_72o5HgAdpI0x0ax](https://stonybrookuniversity.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_72o5HgAdpI0x0ax)) where you'll have the opportunity to enter into a raffle for an iPad and a free continuing education course.
- 5) Lastly, as you learned in your Research course, data is important. The results are broken down by area and are a useful tool in providing feedback on our curriculum. Please help us in our continual curriculum refinement, as well as to help those students who come after you.

Wishing all of you a good final semester. You have been an incredibly resilient and flexible cohort, as we've journeyed through these unprecedented pandemic times together. We are very much looking forward to celebrating your graduation.

Please let us know if you have any questions. If so, please email Dean Horwitz at: [shelley.horwitz@stonybrook.edu](mailto:shelley.horwitz@stonybrook.edu)

Sincerely,

Dean Mondros and Dean Horwitz