



# Social Service Exam and Social Work Licensing Exams in Canada

For more than 20 years, the Social Work Licensing Exams have been used by Canadian social work regulators to **assess applicants' readiness to practice**. The practice analyses for the licensing exams have included surveys of Canadian social workers since 2002 and have included surveys in French since 2010.

In 2020, the ASWB Board of Directors voted to provide licensing exams in French for Canadian provinces. The 2024 Analysis of the Practice of Social Work also included data collection on social service work as we explored the feasibility of developing the Social Service exam for Canada.

Working with a company that specializes in high-stakes licensing and certification exam versioning, ASWB is developing French-language versions of the Social Service exam, Bachelors exam, and Clinical Exam, which will be available in late 2027. ASWB is following the most rigorous process offered, including forward and backward translation and validation by Canadian French speaking subject matter experts.



In May 2026, ASWB convened a meeting of psychometricians and Canadian social service workers and social service work faculty to conduct a validation study of a new Social Service exam.

## Next steps

### AUGUST 2026

French-language exam resources ready

- *ASWB Examination Guidebook*
- Nonstandard testing arrangements handbook

### Q2 2027

Publish Online Practice Test for French-language exams

### Q3 2027

Social Service exam and French-language exams ready