

# Alternative Method of Examining Competency

## What is it?

The Alternative Method of Examining Competency (AMEC) was created in response to the Texas Professional Social Work Act to assist individuals who, while unable to achieve a passing score on the national examination, have demonstrated the knowledge, skills and abilities to become professionally licensed social workers in Texas.

## Who is eligible to participate in the AMEC program?

To be eligible for AMEC, an applicant must have failed the examination at least twice by less than 5 points (66-69), and the more recent of these scores must have been within 12 months of application. The applicant must also possess the required education as stated in the Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners rules section §781.301, and he or she should have a minimum of 6 months of professional experience in a social work setting.

## What is the fee to participate in the AMEC program?

A fee equal to the examination fee will be paid to the board to cover the cost of the administration of the AMEC program and evaluation of the professional portfolio.

## What happens when an applicant is accepted into the program?

Through participation in the AMEC program, the applicant is issued a probationary license for a minimum period of one year.

## What are the requirements to participate in the AMEC program?

- The candidate for probationary licensure and the supervisor will submit affidavits of understanding regarding the process and responsibilities of the AMEC program.
- The candidate must participate in weekly supervision with a board approved licensed social worker who is employed at the same agency. Supervision must be provided weekly at the rate of one hour to every thirty (ratio 1:30) or more hours worked.
- The candidate must remain employed at a full-time rate during their participation in the program.
- All participants in the AMEC program will be required to renew their social worker license in accordance with the Texas Professional Social Work Act and the board rules.
- Once approved to participate in the AMEC program, a candidate may not continue to sit for the examination.
- The AMEC program participant will develop a professional portfolio during the course of supervision and submit it for review to the board at the end of the probationary period.

## What does the professional portfolio include?

1. Affidavits of understanding regarding the AMEC process;
2. Eleven (11) separate 3-5 page typed, double-spaced papers, each one covering a separate, specific core content area of social work practice;
3. A daily journal of the probationary licensee's activities and supervision for the probationary period;
4. A 7-10 page typed, double-spaced case analysis covering the probationary licensee's work with a typical client during the probationary period;
5. A 3-5 page typed, double-spaced self-evaluation completed by the probationary licensee which includes an analysis of the licensee's professional knowledge, skills and abilities;
6. Quarterly evaluations completed and submitted to the board by the supervisor regarding the probationary licensee's development;
7. An evaluation of the supervisor's supervision skills completed by the probationary licensee;
8. A notarized affidavit from the supervisor attesting to the readiness of the probationary licensee's ability to perform as a professional social worker based on the knowledge, skills and abilities observed during the supervision period.

## How is the portfolio evaluated?

The candidate will submit the completed portfolio to the board office for evaluation by an approved evaluator of the board. The evaluator will examine the portfolio for completeness and proper infusion of professional knowledge, skills and abilities of social work practice. Written comments will be provided to the probationary licensee from the evaluator as part of the ongoing learning process.

The evaluator will make a recommendation to the board regarding the probationary licensee's continued process of attaining full licensure. The evaluator may recommend granting full licensure, granting full licensure pending revisions to the portfolio or remediation of specific content areas based on the evaluator's assessment of the candidate's portfolio.

Final determination of whether to grant full licensure or continue the licensee's probationary status will be the responsibility of the board. The evaluation of the professional portfolio by the board will not be based on the success of the probationary licensee's interaction with the client; rather, it will be based on the probationary licensee's ability to infuse professional social work knowledge, skills and abilities into daily practice and the demonstration of professional growth of the probationary licensee during the probationary period.

## What are the core content areas?

### LBSW (Basic)

Human Development and Behavior in the Social Environment

Effects of Diversity

Assessment in Social Work Practice

Social Work Practice with Individuals, Couples, Families, Groups and Communities

Interpersonal Communication

Professional Social Worker/Client Relationship

Professional Values and Ethics

Supervision in Social Work

Social Work Administration

Practice Evaluation and the Utilization of Research

Service Delivery

Case Analysis

### LMSW (Intermediate)

Human Development and Behavior in the Social Environment

Issues of Diversity

Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment Planning

Social Work Practice with Individuals, Couples, Families, Groups and Communities

Communication

Professional Social Worker/Client Relationship

Professional Values and Ethics

Supervision in Social Work

Supervision and Administration

Practice Evaluation and the Utilization of Research

Service Delivery

Case Analysis



**TEXAS STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORKER EXAMINERS**  
**APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE**  
**ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF EXAMINING COMPETENCY (AMEC) PROGRAM**

Budget ZZ063  
Fund 008

NAME: _____ LICENSE LEVEL _____ LICENSE NUMBER _____ ADDRESS: STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____ _____ PHONE: _____ EMPLOYER: _____ ADDRESS: _____ EXAM SCORES: Applicants must have failed the examination on two or more occasions by less than 5 points (66, 67, 68, or 69), and the most recent of these scores must have been within one year of this application. EXAM SCORE # 1: _____, TAKEN ON _____ EXAM SCORE # 2: _____, TAKEN ON _____
SUPERVISOR NAME: _____ LICENSE LEVEL _____ LICENSE NUMBER _____ ADDRESS: STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____ _____ PHONE: _____ EMPLOYER: _____ ADDRESS: _____
NAME OF LOCATION SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE WILL TAKE PLACE: _____ ADDRESS: STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____ _____ PHONE: _____
TYPE OF SOCIAL WORK SERVICES TO BE PREFORMED: _____ _____

I hereby certify that I meet the requirements of eligibility for participation in the Alternative Method of Examining Competency (AMEC) as listed in the board rules (22 TAC 781) under §781.311. By my signature, I agree to fulfill the requirements of the program as listed and, upon beginning, waive my right to additional examination for licensure while participating in the AMEC program. Should I elect to stop my participation in the AMEC program at any point before successfully completing the program requirements, I agree to waive my right to a refund of the administrative fee paid to the board.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

Enclosed is the \$175.00 administrative fee made payable to the TSBSWE: \_\_\_ Check \_\_\_ Money Order

**Mail to:** Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners  
 PO Box 12197 Capitol Station  
 Austin, TX 78711-2197