

Social Worker

Registration Process

Alberta College of Social Workers (ACSW)
Application for Registration
(Annual fee varies)

- Applicants must provide:
- ✓ Completed application form
 - ✓ Academic credentials assessment results from Canadian Association of Social Workers (preferred) or IQAS (See academic credentials section)
 - ✓ Current criminal record check
 - ✓ Resumé
 - ✓ Character reference
 - ✓ Proof of liability insurance (when employed)

ACSW Decision

ACSW Provisional Registration

- ✓ Annual fee (varies)
- ✓ 1,500 social work practice hours

Applicant Not Accepted

Alternative Careers

- ▲ Addictions counsellor
- ▲ Career development professional
- ▲ Child and youth care worker
- ▲ Community health representative
- ▲ Correctional services worker
- ▲ Creative arts therapist
- ▲ Gerontological specialist
- ▲ Marriage and family counsellor
- ▲ Mediator
- ▲ Mental health worker
- ▲ Parole/probation officer

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Description of Occupation

Social Workers help people, communities and organizations develop the skills they need to improve their social functioning and social environments. They also connect them with available resources needed to do so, through counseling, education, referrals and other means of assistance. Social Workers may work for hospitals, government, schools, and community agencies or in private practice. They can provide assessments, counselling, treatment, and referral services to clients. They can also be involved in social policy or program research and development.

Registering in Alberta

In order to practice social work in Alberta, you must register with the Alberta College of Social Workers (ACSW).

To apply for registration you will have to fill out an Application for Registration and submit it to ACSW together with information about your education, work history, experience and references, which are outlined in the document below.

Contact information and a link to the Application Form can be found at the end of this document.

Residency Requirement

There is no residency requirement to begin the registration process.

Requirements

The following process is for Social Workers who trained outside of Canada.

1. Academic Credentials

Before you apply for registration, you must have your credentials assessed. You must have a degree or diploma that is specifically in Social Work and acceptable to the ACSW.

To have your credentials evaluated, apply for an assessment from the Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW) <http://www.casw-acts.ca>. For the assessment you will be required to provide official documentation indicating courses taken and number of hours of credits or hours of study.

The CASW assessment is preferred, but Alberta College of Social Workers may also accept an assessment from the International Qualifications Assessment Service (IQAS).

2. Work Experience

If your credentials are acceptable, you may be provisionally registered with the ACSW until you complete at least 1,500 hours of Social Work practice under the supervision of a Registered Social Worker. This is a legal requirement that all social workers in Alberta must meet. Practice hours must be completed once you get to Canada, and would require that you find either a paid or unpaid position in a related field.

If you are already working or volunteering in the Social Work field when you apply for registration, you must:

- Complete “Section 4: Employment Information” on your Application for Registration.

You will also detail your work experience (past or present) and any previous licensing, certification or registration you have had in the Application’s appendices.

3. Good Character and Reputation

You must submit the following to ACSW to prove your good character and reputation:

- A current criminal record check, completed within six (6) months from the date of your Application
- A reference to prove your good character and reputation. A Character Reference form is provided in the Application for Registration package. This does not have to be completed by a Registered Social Worker.

4. Other Requirements

Along with your Academic Credentials and Application, you must submit the following to ACSW:

- A resumé outlining your work history over the past five (5) years
- Fees
- Evidence of having professional liability insurance (insurance provided through your employer is acceptable). If you are not currently working, you must forward evidence of your insurance to ACSW when you begin working.

English Language

You must be able to communicate in English, but English language testing is not required.

Examinations

Section 6(2) of the Social Workers Professional Regulations states that the Registrar may require the applicant to undergo any examination, testing or other assessment activities to assist with a determination of competence.

Payment

The following fees may apply for internationally trained applicants. All fees are in Canadian dollars and are subject to change. Check with ACSW for the most up-to-date fees.

Application Fee	\$80
Annual dues	
If you are employed in the Social Work field	\$350
If you are seeking employment in the Social Work field	\$350
If you are working as a volunteer in an unpaid position or are inactive in Social Work	\$175
Other fees	
CASW Credentials Assessment	\$339
IQAS Specialized Assessment	\$200

Average Earnings

The overall average earnings for Social Workers, according to the Alberta 2013 Wage and Salary survey, were:

Average hours worked per week	32.2
Average wage per hour	\$40.24
Average salary per year	\$67175.

Employment Options

You can also consider working in Alberta in alternative careers such as Addictions Counsellor, Career Development Professional, Child and Youth Care Worker, Community Health Representative, Correctional Services Worker, Creative Arts Therapist, Gerontological Specialist, Marriage and Family Counsellor, Mediator, Mental Health Worker or Parole/Probation Officer.

For more information about additional employment options, go to the following website: [Alberta Learning Information Service \(ALIS\) Occupational Profiles—Social Worker \(www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo\)](http://www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo).

Contact Information

Alberta College of Social Workers (ACSW)
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Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3M1
Phone: 780-421-1167
Toll-Free Phone: 1-800-661-3089
Fax: 780-421-1168
Toll-Free Fax: 1-866-874-8931
Website: www.acsw.ab.ca

Canadian Association of Social Workers
402-383 Parkdale Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4R4
Phone: 613-729-6668
Fax: 613-729-9608
Website: www.casw-acts.ca

International Qualifications Assessment Service (IQAS)
9th Floor, 108 Street Building
9942 - 108 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2J5
Phone: 780-427-2655
Fax: 780-422-9734
Website: www.employment.alberta.ca/immigration/4512.html

Resources

This information is an overview of the registration process. For the most current information visit the Alberta College of Social Workers (ACSW) website at www.acsw.ab.ca.

Application Forms and Information:

www.acsw.ab.ca/social_workers/practice_resources/registration

Academic Credentials:

Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW)
www.casw-acts.ca

International Qualifications Assessment Service (IQAS)
www.employment.alberta.ca/immigration/4512.html