Chapter MPSW 14

CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS AND EQUIVALENCY OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

MPSW 14.01 Academic program equivalent to a master’s degree in professional counseling. An academic program is the equivalent of a master’s degree in professional counseling or rehabilitation counseling from an approved institution if the completed program meets the following criteria:

1. The course work was completed at an institution which was accredited by its regional accrediting association at the time the applicant graduated from the program, and was part of a program of studies leading to a master’s degree or doctoral degree in a field closely related to professional counseling or rehabilitation counseling.

2. All course work reflected on the applicant’s official transcript totals at least 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of academic credit. The course work included successful completion of all of the following:
   (a) At least 3 semester hours or 4 quarter hours academic credit in a supervised practicum counseling experience that provides documented proof of a minimum of 100 hours of supervised practicum experience with at least 40 hours of face-to-face client contact. The practicum experience includes evaluation of the student’s counseling performance throughout the practicum and one hour per week of individual or triadic supervision throughout the practicum by a program faculty member, an approved student supervisor, or a site supervisor.
   (b) At least 6 semester hours or 8 quarter hours academic credit in a supervised internship counseling experience that provides documented proof of a minimum of 600 hours of supervised internship experience with at least 240 hours of face-to-face client contact. The internship experience includes evaluation of the student’s counseling performance throughout the internship and one hour per week of individual or triadic supervision throughout the internship performed by the onsite or field supervisor. The internship experience further includes an average of 1 1/2 hours per week of group supervision that is provided on a regular schedule throughout the practicum by a program faculty member or a student supervisor.
   (c) At least 3 semester hours or 4 quarter hours academic credit in a counseling theory or counseling approaches course that provides documented evidence that the student has been exposed to a variety of theoretical models that are consistent with current research and practice in the field. Courses covering only a single or specific counseling theory will not be sufficient for meeting this educational criterion.
   (d) At least 3 semester hours or 4 quarter hours of academic credit in each of the following topic areas:
      1. ‘Human growth and development.’ Studies that provide a broad understanding of the nature and needs of individuals at all developmental levels; normal and abnormal human behavior; personality theory; theories of individual and family development and transitions; theories for facilitating optimal development and wellness across the life span; and learning theory within appropriate cultural contexts. Courses that focus on only one lifespan developmental level will not count in fulfilling this criterion.
      2. ‘Social and cultural foundations.’ Studies that provide a broad understanding of societal changes and trends; human roles; societal subgroups, social mores and interaction patterns; counselors’ roles in developing cultural self-awareness; promoting cultural social justice, advocacy and conflict resolution; and other culturally supported behaviors that promote optimal wellness and growth of the human spirit, mind, or body; counselors’ roles in eliminating biases, prejudices, and processes of intentional and unintentional oppression and discrimination; and differing lifestyles.
      3. ‘Helping relationship.’ Studies that provide a broad understanding and practical application of helping processes, basic and advanced helping skills; consultation theories and their applications; client and helper self-understanding and self-development; and facilitation of client or consultant change. An applicant’s official transcript must reflect successful completion of a course addressing counseling process, skills, and intervention techniques.
      4. ‘Group dynamics processing and counseling.’ Studies that provide a broad understanding of group development, dynamics, and group counseling theories; group leadership styles; basic and advanced group counseling methods and skills; and other group approaches.
      5. ‘Lifestyle and career development.’ Studies that provide a broad understanding of career development theories; occupational and educational information sources and systems; career and leisure counseling, guidance and education; lifestyle and career decision making; career development program planning and resources; and effectiveness evaluation.
      6. ‘Assessment and testing.’ Studies that provide a broad understanding of group and individual educational and psychometric theories and approaches to appraisal; data and information gathering methods, validity and reliability; psychometric statistics; factors influencing appraisals; social and cultural factors related to the assessment; and evaluation of individuals, groups and specific populations and use of appraisals to enhance helping processes.
      7. ‘Research and evaluation.’ Studies that provide a broad understanding of types of research; basic statistics; research report development; research implementation; program evaluation; needs assessment; publication of research information; and ethical and legal considerations.
      8. ‘Professional counseling orientation.’ Studies that provide a broad understanding of professional counselor roles and functions; professional goals and objectives; professional organizations and associations; professional history and trends; ethical and legal standards; professional preparation standards; and professional credentialing. The American Counseling Association (ACA) or the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC) must have been the primary professional identity organization discussed and the ACA Code of Ethics or CRCC Code of Professional Ethics for Rehabilitation counselors must...
have been used as the primary professional conduct guide and
prominently identified as such in the orientation course syllabus.

(e) At least 3 semester hours or 4 quarter hours in one of the
following:

1. ‘Foundations of clinical mental health counseling.’ If the
academic program has an emphasis in mental health counseling,
coursework addressing the history and development of clinical
mental health counseling, theories and models related to clinical
mental health counseling, principles of clinical mental health
counseling, including prevention, intervention, consultation, edu-
cation, and advocacy, and networks that promote mental health
and wellness.

2. ‘Foundations of clinical rehabilitation counseling.’ If the
academic program has an emphasis in rehabilitation counseling,
coursework addressing the history and development of rehabili-
tation counseling, theories and models related to rehabilitation
counseling, social science theory that addresses psychosocial
aspects of disability, principles of rehabilitation including preven-
tion, intervention, wellness, consultation, education, and advoca-
cy.

(f) At least 3 semester hours or 4 quarter hours in one of the
follow:

1. ‘Clinical mental health counseling diagnosis and treatment
planning.’ If the academic program has an emphasis in clinical
mental health counseling, coursework addressing the diagnostic
process, including differential diagnosis and the use of diagnostic
classification systems such as the Diagnostic and Statistical Man-
ual of Mental Disorders (DSM) and/or the International Classifi-
cation of Diseases (ICD); training on administration of intake
interview, mental status evaluation, biopsychosocial history, men-
tal health history, and psychological assessment for treatment
planning and caseload management; and techniques and interven-
tions related to a broad range of mental health issues.

2. ‘Rehabilitation counseling diagnosis and treatment plan-
nung.’ If the academic program has an emphasis in rehabilitation
counseling, coursework addressing diagnostic interviews, mental
status examinations, symptom inventories, psychoeducational
and personality assessments, biopsychosocial histories, assess-
ments for treatment planning; career and work–related assess-
ments including job–analysis, work site modification, trans-
ferrable skills analysis, and job readiness; strategies to advocate
for clients with disabilities and rehabilitation counseling.

(g) At least 3 semester hours or 4 quarter hours in each of the
following:

1. ‘Crisis and trauma counseling.’ Studies that include coun-
seling approaches that effectively address crises and trauma, the
impact of trauma and crisis and potential neurobiological
responses; skills and techniques for assessing and intervening in
specific crisis or trauma situations including suicide assessment
and intervention.

2. ‘Abnormal behavior and psychopathology.’ Studies that
include concepts of psychopathology and introduces methods of
assessment and diagnosis for children, adolescents and adults
with major mental disorders; and personality disorders, multiple
perspectives of emotional and psychological distress, disturbance
and behavior; skills to use the DSM diagnostic system while
including acknowledgement of client strengths and resilience and
the social and cultural context.

3. ‘Addictions counseling.’ Studies that provide an overview
of addiction, the process of addiction, treatment and recovery
approaches, relapse prevention, developmental issues related to
addiction; treatment and prevention planning in regard to addic-
tion.

4. ‘Family, partnership, and couples counseling.’ Studies that
provide information and skills relevant to conducting partner or
marital and family counseling services within a multicultural
society with emphasis given to systemic theory and philosophy;
dynamics of family interaction and the initial skills in assessment
and treatment of dysfunctional partner, marital, family and sys-
tems or ecosystems relationships.

3) Notwithstanding sub. (1), an applicant may, at an institu-
tion which was accredited by its regional accrediting association
at the time the course was completed, complete up to 18 credit
hours outside the program of studies leading to a master’s degree
in order to meet the requirements in sub. (2).

History: Cr. Register, November, 1993, No. 455, eff. 12−1−93; am. (2) (intro.),
Register October, 1998, No. 514, eff. 11–1−98; am. (2) (intro.), Register, November,
1999, No. 527, eff. 12−1−99; CR 01−026; cr. (4), Register December 2001 No. 552,
eff. 1−1−02; CR 08−088; am. (2) (intro.) Register June 2009 No. 642, eff. 7−1−09;
CR 13−009: r. and recr. Register April 2014 No. 700, eff. 9−1−18; CR 17−079r: r.
and recr. (2) (b), cr. (3) Register August 2018 No. 752, eff. 9−1−18.

MPSW 14.02 Academic program equivalent to a
doctorate in professional counseling. An academic pro-
gram is the equivalent of a doctoral degree in professional coun-
seling from an approved institution if the completed program
meets all of the following criteria:

(1) The course work was completed at an institution which
was accredited by its regional accrediting association at the
time the applicant graduated from the program, and was part of a pro-
gram of studies leading to a doctoral degree in a field closely
related to professional counseling.

(2) The doctoral program consists of a minimum of 4 aca-
demic years of graduate–level preparation defined as 8 semesters
or 12 quarters with a minimum of 96 semester credits or 144 quar-
ter credits of graduate–level credits required of all students in the
program.

(3) Doctoral students are required to participate in a super-
vised doctoral–level practicum of a minimum of 100 hours in coun-
seling, of which 40 hours must be in direct service with clients.
The nature of the doctoral–level practicum experience is to be
determined in consultation with program faculty or a doc-
toral committee, or both. During the doctoral student’s practicum,
supervision by student supervisors is not permissible.

(4) Doctoral students are required to complete doctoral–level
counseling internships that total a minimum of 600 hours. The 600
hours may include supervised experiences in clinical practice,
research, and teaching. The internship includes most of the activi-
ties of a regularly employed professional in the setting. The 600
hours may be allocated at the discretion of the doctoral advisor
and the student on the basis of experience and training.

(5) During the practicum and internship, the student receives
weekly individual or triadic supervision, performed by a supervi-
sor with a doctorate in professional counseling or a related profes-
sion. Group supervision is provided on a regular schedule with
other students throughout the internship and is usually performed
by a program faculty member.

History: Cr. Register, November, 1993, No. 455, eff. 12−1−93; am. (2), Register,
October, 1998, No. 514, eff. 11–1−98; am. (2), Register, November, 1999, No. 527,
eff. 12−1−99; CR 16−009: r. and recr. Register January 2018 No. 745, eff. 2−1−18.