

**Clearinghouse Rule 13-009**

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPY, PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING  
AND SOCIAL WORK EXAMINING BOARD

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IN THE MATTER OF RULE-MAKING : PROPOSED ORDER OF THE  
PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE : MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPY  
MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPY, : PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING AND  
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING AND : SOCIAL WORK EXAMINING BOARD  
SOCIAL WORK EXAMINING BOARD : ADOPTING RULES  
: (CLEARINGHOUSE RULE )  
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PROPOSED ORDER

An order of the Marriage & Family Therapy, Professional Counseling and Social Work Examining Board to repeal and recreate MPSW 10.01(6) and MPSW 14.01 relating to education.

Analysis prepared by the Department of Safety and Professional Services.

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ANALYSIS

**Statutes interpreted:** §§ 457.12, 457.13, 457.14, 457.15, 457.16, and 457.22, Wis. Stats.

**Statutory authority:** §§ 15.08(5)(b) and 457.03 (1), Wis. Stats.

**Explanation of agency authority:**

The examining board shall promulgate rules for its own guidance and for the guidance of the trade or profession to which it pertains, and define and enforce professional conduct and unethical practices not inconsistent with the law relating to the particular trade or profession. The examining board shall promulgate rules establishing minimum standards for educational programs that must be completed for certification or licensure.

**Related statute or rule:** §§ 457.12, 457.13, 457.14, 457.15, 457.16, and 457.22, Wis. Stats.

**Plain language analysis:**

Section 1 repeals and recreates a definition of supervision. Supervision is a means of transmitting skills, knowledge, and attitudes. Supervision allows for monitoring the quality of services offered by the supervisee to enhance the quality of skills and services provided by the counselor-in-training. It provides structure for monitoring the professional services provided by the counselor-in-training.

Section 2 repeals and recreates MPSW 14.01 relating to the criteria necessary for an academic program to be equivalent to a master's degree in professional counseling or rehabilitation counseling. Currently at least 42 credit hours are required and this rule would increase the number of hours required in the program to be comparable to the majority of states, including our neighboring states.

The course work is to be in a field closely related to professional counseling or rehabilitation counseling. The course work must total at least 48 semester hours or 72 quarter hours of academic credit including the following:

- 3 semester hours or 4 quarter hours of a supervised practicum with minimum of 100 hours of practicum experience including at least 40 hours of face-to-face client contact.
- 6 semester hours or 4 quarter hours in a supervised internship of a minimum of 600 hours of internship experience including at least 240 hours of face-to-face client contact.
- 3 semester hours or 4 quarter hours in counseling theory or counseling approaches course which includes a variety of theoretical models .
- 3 semester hours or 4 quarter hours in each of the following topic areas:
  - Human growth and development
  - Social and cultural foundations
  - The helping relationship
  - Group dynamics processing and counseling
  - Lifestyle and career development
  - Appraisal of individuals
  - Research and evaluation
  - Professional counseling orientation
- 6 semester or 8 quarter hours in one of the following:
  - If the academic program's emphasis is in mental health, course(s) addressing the roles and functions of a mental health counseling.
  - If the academic program's emphasis is in rehabilitation counseling, course(s) addressing medical, functional, and environmental aspects of disability, rehabilitation services, case management and related services.
- As part of the above curriculum, the program shall contain a basic understanding of addiction and how to assess and intervene with individuals, groups and families who exhibit suicide ideation, psychological and emotional crisis or trauma. These are not required to be stand alone courses.

These new requirements are in line with the standards of the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) and the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE).

Section 3. An effective date of September 1, 2016 will provide the time necessary for the education programs to make adjustments in their course offerings and curriculum. In addition, it will provide notice to the students pursuing their master's degrees of the new requirements.

**Summary of, and comparison with, existing or proposed federal regulation:**

None

**Comparison with rules in adjacent states:**

**Illinois:** Illinois requires a master's or doctoral degree with a minimum of 48 semester hours or 72 quarter hours with a minimum of 3 semester hours in each of the following areas: Human growth and development; Counseling theory; Counseling techniques; Group dynamics, processing and counseling; Appraisal of individuals; Research and evaluation; Professional, legal and ethical responsibilities relating to professional counseling; Social and cultural foundations; Lifestyle and career development; Practicum/internship; Psychopathology and maladaptive behavior; Substance abuse; and Family dynamics. The program shall include a one year residence defined as 24 semester hours. All master's degrees and doctoral programs in professional counseling or rehabilitation counseling that are accredited by CACREP, CORE and doctoral programs in psychology approved by the American Psychological Association and the Council for the National Registry of health Service Providers are approved programs.

**Iowa:** Iowa requires a master's degree with a minimum of 60 credit hours or equivalent quarter hours or a doctoral degree in counseling with emphasis in mental health counseling from a mental health counseling program accredited by CACREP. Graduates from non-CACREP accredited mental health counseling programs shall provide an equivalency evaluation of their educational credentials by the Center for Credentialing and Education, Inc.

**Michigan:** Michigan requires a master's degree of not less than 48 semester hours or 72 quarter hours, including a 600 clock hour internship, in a program which meets CACREP standards.

**Minnesota:** Minnesota requires a master's or doctoral degree of not less than 48 semester hours or 72 quarter hours and a supervised field experience of not fewer than 700 hours that is counseling in nature. The degree program must be from a counseling program recognized by CACREP or from an institution of higher education that is accredited by a regional accrediting organization recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. Specific academic course content must include the following subject areas: The helping relationship, including counseling theory and practice; Human growth and development; Lifestyle and career development; Group dynamics, processes, counseling and consulting; Assessment and appraisal; Social and cultural foundations, including multicultural issues; Principles of etiology, treatment planning, and prevention of mental and emotional disorders and dysfunctional behavior; Family counseling and therapy; Research and evaluation; and Professional counseling orientation and ethics.

**Summary of factual data and analytical methodologies:**

The Professional Counselors Section of the Marriage & Family Therapy, Professional Counseling and Social Work Examining Board reviewed the standards of the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) and the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE), researched the requirements of other states and convened a task force of educators in the areas of mental health counseling and rehabilitation counseling.

**Analysis and supporting documents used to determine effect on small business or in preparation of economic impact analysis:**

This rule addresses criteria for determining whether a program is equivalent to a master's degree in professional counseling and will not have an effect on small business. The requirements in the proposed rule are comparable to our neighboring states.

This rule was posted for public comment on the economic impact of the proposed rule, including how this proposed rule may affect businesses, local government units and individuals, for a period of 14 days. No comments were received relating to the economic impact of the rule.

**Fiscal Estimate and Economic Impact Analysis:**

The Fiscal Estimate and Economic Impact Analysis is attached.

**Effect on small business:**

These proposed rules do not have an economic impact on small businesses, as defined in s. 227.114 (1), Stats. The Department's Regulatory Review Coordinator may be contacted by email at [Greg.Gasper@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Greg.Gasper@wisconsin.gov), or by calling (608) 266-8608.

**Agency contact person:**

Sharon Henes, Paralegal, Department of Safety and Professional Services, Division of Policy Development, 1400 East Washington Avenue, Room 151, P.O. Box 8935, Madison, Wisconsin 53708; telephone 608-261-2377; email at [Sharon.Henes@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sharon.Henes@wisconsin.gov).

**Place where comments are to be submitted and deadline for submission:**

Comments may be submitted to [Sharon.Henes@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sharon.Henes@wisconsin.gov), Department of Safety and Professional Services, Division of Policy Development, 1400 East Washington Avenue, Room 151, P.O. Box 8935, Madison, WI 53708-8935, or by email to [Sharon.Henes@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sharon.Henes@wisconsin.gov). Comments must be received at or before the public hearing to be held on February 26, 2013 to be included in the record of rule-making proceedings.

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TEXT OF RULE

Section 1. MPSW 10.01(6) is repealed and recreated to read:

MPSW 10.01(6) “Supervision” describes a means of transmitting the skills, knowledge, and attitudes of a particular profession to the next generation of that profession. The supervisory relationship is evaluative, extends over time, and enhances the professional functioning of the developing professional. It allows for monitoring the quality of services offered by the supervisee with the purpose of enhancing the quality of skills and services provided by the counselor-in-training. The supervisory relationship further provides a structure for monitoring the professional services rendered by the counselor-in-training with the purpose of clinical oversight to ensure ethical delivery of services and protection of public health and welfare.

Section 2. MPSW 14.01 is repealed and recreated to read:

**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 a student’s official transcript must total at least 48 semester hours or 72 quarter hours of academic credit. The course work included successful completion of:
  - (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 to include 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. The practicum experience further includes an average of 1½ hours per week of group supervision that is provide on a regular schedule throughout the practicum by a program faculty member or a student 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 to include 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 usually performed by the onsite or field 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, and counselors' roles in eliminating biases, prejudices, and processes of intentional and unintentional oppression and discrimination, and differing lifestyles.
3. The 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 consultee changes. 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 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. Appraisal of individuals — 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 results in 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 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 6 semester hours or 8 quarter hours in one of the following:

1. If the academic program has an emphasis in mental health counseling, addressing the roles and functions of a mental health counselor, including coursework addressing treatment modalities and knowledge of diagnosis and treatment.
2. If the academic program has an emphasis in rehabilitation counseling, addressing medical, functional, and environmental aspects of disability, rehabilitation services, case management, and related services.

(3) The program curricula shall contain a basic understanding of addiction and how to assess and intervene with individuals, groups and families who exhibit suicide ideation, psychological and emotional crisis or trauma. The topics in this subsection are not required to be stand alone courses if the coverage of the topics is identified within respective course syllabi.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This rule shall take effect on September 1, 2016.

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(END OF TEXT OF RULE)  
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The rules adopted in this order shall take effect on September 1, 2016.

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Member of the Board  
Marriage & Family Therapy, Professional  
Counselors and Social Work Examining Board