

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

IN THE MATTER OF RULE-MAKING : ORDER OF THE
PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE :MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY,
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY, :PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING AND
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING AND :SOCIAL WORK EXAMINING BOARD
SOCIAL WORK EXAMINING BOARD : ADOPTING RULES
:(CLEARINGHOUSE RULE 03-090)

ORDER

An order of the Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling and Social Work Examining Board to amend MPSW 3.01 (2), 3.05 (2), 3.07 (2), 3.09 (2), 11.01 (1) (b) and 16.01 (1) (a) 3., relating to the determination of the equivalency of a foreign degree to a degree from an institution accredited in the United States, and to require some candidates to demonstrate English proficiency.

Analysis prepared by the Department of Regulation and Licensing.

ANALYSIS

Statutes authorizing promulgation: ss. 15.085 (5) (b), 227.11 (2) and 457.03 (1), Stats.

Statutes interpreted: ss. 457.08, 457.10 and 457.13, Stats.

SECTIONS 1. to 4. Under current requirements, applicants for social worker certification or licensure must have earned a social work degree from a school accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. Applicants otherwise qualified are prevented from obtaining Wisconsin certification or licensure if the applicant obtained a degree in another country. The Council on Social Work Education has a process for determining equivalency of degrees, and in fairness to graduates of foreign schools, the Social Worker Section wishes to rely on that process for accepting equivalent degrees. These sections amend the rules to permit the Social Worker Section to accept from applicants for social worker certification or licensure a foreign degree determined by a national accrediting organization to be equivalent to a degree from an accredited school. The amendment would require candidates to demonstrate proficiency in English. These sections specify the new process and requirement.

SECTION 1. addresses the qualifications of applicants for the basic level social worker certification.

SECTION 2. addresses the qualifications for certification as an advanced practice social worker.

SECTION 3. addresses the qualifications for certification as an independent social worker.

SECTION 4. addresses qualifications for licensure as a clinical social worker.

SECTION 5. Under current requirements, licensure as a professional counselor requires that candidates be graduates of programs accredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Counseling (CACREP) and Related Educational Programs or the Council on Rehabilitation Education. The National Board of Certified Counselors provides a service to evaluate whether foreign degrees are equivalent to a degree program accredited by CACREP. The amendment would require candidates to demonstrate proficiency in English. This section specifies the new process and requirement.

SECTION 6. Under current requirements, licensure as a marriage and family therapist requires that candidates be graduates of programs accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy. This amendment permits an individual who is a graduate of a program from a foreign institution to seek licensure when an organization approved by the Marriage and Family Section determines that the program is equivalent to a program accredited by COAMFTE. The amendment would require candidates to demonstrate proficiency in English. This section specifies the new process and requirement.

TEXT OF RULE

SECTION 1. MPSW 3.01 (2) is amended to read:

MPSW 3.01 (2) Verification that the school or program which awarded the social work degree was accredited by, or a pre-accreditation program, of the ~~council on social work education~~ Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) at the time the applicant graduated from the program or school, or that a degree awarded by a foreign institution of higher learning has been determined by the CSWE to be equivalent to a program accredited by the CSWE. If the applicant's education was not received in English, the applicant must demonstrate proficiency in English by achieving a score of 550 (or 213 on the computer-based exam) or above on the test of English as a foreign language (TOEFL) or an equivalent score on an equivalent examination.

SECTION 2. MPSW 3.05 (2) is amended to read:

MPSW 3.05 (2) Verification that the school or program which awarded the social work degree was accredited by, or a pre-accreditation program, of the ~~council on social work education~~ Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) at the time the applicant graduated from the program or school, or that a degree awarded by a foreign institution of higher learning has been determined by the CSWE to be equivalent to a program accredited by the CSWE. If the applicant's education was not received in English, the applicant must demonstrate proficiency in English by achieving a score of 550 (or 213 on the computer-based exam) or above on the Test Of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or an equivalent score on an equivalent examination.

SECTION 3. MPSW 3.07 (2) is amended to read:

MPSW 3.07 (2) Verification that the school or program which awarded the social work degree was accredited by, or a pre-accreditation program, of the ~~council on social work education~~ Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) at the time the applicant graduated from the program or school, or that a degree awarded by a foreign institution of higher learning has

been determined by the CSWE to be equivalent to a program accredited by the CSWE. If the applicant's education was not received in English, the applicant must demonstrate proficiency in English by achieving a score of 550 (or 213 on the computer-based exam) or above on the Test Of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or an equivalent score on an equivalent examination.

SECTION 4. MPSW 3.09 (2) is amended to read:

MPSW 3.09 (2) Verification that the school or program which awarded the social work degree was accredited by, or a pre-accreditation program, of the ~~council on social work education~~ Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) at the time the applicant graduated from the program or school, or that a degree awarded by a foreign institution of higher learning has been determined by the CSWE to be equivalent to a program accredited by the CSWE. If the applicant's education was not received in English, the applicant must demonstrate proficiency in English by achieving a score of 550 (or 213 on the computer-based exam) or above on the Test Of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or an equivalent score on an equivalent examination.

SECTION 5. MPSW 11.01 (1) (b) is amended to read:

MPSW 11.01 (1) (b) Verification that the institution which awarded the degree was a regionally accredited college or university, or accredited by the commission for accreditation of counseling and related educational programs (CACREP), or the council on rehabilitation education at the time the applicant graduated from the school, or that a degree awarded by a foreign institution of higher learning has been determined by the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) or by another organization approved by the section to be equivalent to a degree from a program accredited by CACREP. If the applicant's education was not received in English, the applicant must demonstrate proficiency in English by achieving a score of 550 (or 213 on the computer-based exam) or above on the Test Of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or an equivalent score on an equivalent examination.

SECTION 6. MPSW 11.01 (1) (a) 3. is amended to read:

MPSW 16.01 (1) (a) 3. An applicant who has a master's or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy from a program which was not accredited by the commission on accreditation for marriage and family therapy education (COAMFTE) of the American association for marriage and family therapy must submit satisfactory evidence of having completed education equivalent to a master's or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy from a program accredited by the commission on accreditation for marriage and family therapy education of the American association for marriage and family therapy, pursuant to s. MPSW 16.02, or that a degree awarded by a foreign institution of higher learning has been determined by an organization approved by the section to be equivalent to a degree from a program accredited by COAMFTE. If the applicant's education was not received in English, the applicant must demonstrate proficiency in English by achieving a score of 550 (or 213 on the computer-based exam) or above on the Test Of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or an equivalent score on an equivalent examination.

(END OF TEXT OF RULE)

The rules adopted in this order shall take effect on the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin administrative register, pursuant to s. 227.22 (2) (intro.), Wis. Stats.

Dated _____ Agency _____

LaMarr Franklin, Chairperson
Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional
Counseling and Social Work Examining

FISCAL ESTIMATE

There will be no additional cost to the Department of Regulation and Licensing to certify these applicant social workers than for current applicants with degrees from schools in the United States that are accredited by the Council.

FINAL REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ANALYSIS

These rules will have no significant economic impact on a substantial number of small businesses, as defined in s. 227.114 (1) (a), Wis. Stat.