

## Chapter MPSW 16

### REQUIREMENTS FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY LICENSURE

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**Note:** Chapter SFC 16 was created as an emergency rule effective April 26, 1993.  
**Note:** Chapter SFC 16 was renumbered ch. MPSW 16 under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 1., Stats., and corrections made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 7., Stats., Register October 2002 No. 562.

**MPSW 16.01 Application for licensure as a marriage and family therapist. (1)** In addition to paying the fee specified in s. 440.08 (2) (a), Stats., an applicant for licensure as a marriage and family therapist shall submit the completed, signed application form and:

(a) 1. A certificate of professional education, signed and sealed by the chancellor, dean or registrar of the regionally accredited college or university or other accredited institution from which the applicant has graduated with a master's or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy.

2. An applicant who does not have a master's or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy must present a certificate of professional education signed and sealed by the chancellor, dean or registrar of the school from which the applicant has graduated with a master's or doctoral degree in a field substantially equivalent to marriage and family therapy, together with satisfactory evidence of having completed education equivalent to a master's or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy pursuant to s. MPSW 16.02.

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.

(b) An affidavit that the applicant has completed at least 3000 hours of marriage and family therapy practice in no less than 2 years, including at least 1000 hours of face-to-face client contact, under the supervision of a supervisor pursuant to s. MPSW 16.05.

(c) Verification of successful completion of the examination required under s. 457.10 (4), Stats.

(d) Verification of the applicant's credential in all jurisdictions in which the applicant has ever been credentialed.

(e) All pertinent information relating to any convictions or pending charges for all crimes, and any traffic offenses which did or could result in revocation or suspension of the applicant's driver's license.

**(2)** Individuals who, after review of appropriate training and experience, have been admitted to clinical membership in the American association for marriage and family therapy will be

considered for certification on the section's review of documentation of the individual's clinical membership submitted directly to the section from AAMFT. Those applicants shall also submit the fee specified in s. 440.08 (2) (a), Stats., with the completed, signed application form and:

(a) An affidavit that the applicant has completed at least 3000 hours of marriage and family therapy practice in no less than 2 years, including at least 1000 hours of face-to-face client contact, under the supervision of a supervisor pursuant to s. MPSW 16.05.

(b) Verification of successful completion of the examination required under s. 457.10 (4), Stats.

(c) Verification of the applicant's credential in all jurisdictions in which the applicant has ever been credentialed.

(d) All pertinent information relating to any convictions or pending charges for all crimes, and any traffic offenses which did or could result in revocation or suspension of the applicant's driver's license.

**History:** Cr. Register, November, 1993, No. 455, eff. 12-1-93; am. (1) (c) and (2), r. (3), Register, November, 1999, No. 527, eff. 12-1-99; CR 02-105: am. (1) (intro.), (1) (a) 3., (1) (b) and (d) and (2) (a) and (c), Register October 2002 No. 562, eff. 11-1-02; CR 03-090: am. (1) (a) 3. Register June 2004 No. 582, eff. 7-1-04.

**MPSW 16.02 Educational equivalents for graduate degrees in marriage and family therapy from accredited institutions.** For purposes of meeting the educational requirements for a certificate as a marriage and family therapist, the following are substantially equivalent to a master's or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy from an accredited institution:

**(1)** A course of study that includes at least 9 separate courses in the general topic areas of marital and family studies, marital and family therapy, and human development during the completion of a master's or doctoral degree at a regionally accredited college or university, as follows:

**Note:** There is a depth requirement in the educational equivalency evaluation. Each applicant is required to have a minimum of 2 courses in each of the general topic areas of marital and family studies, marital and family therapy, and human development. Each applicant is also required to have a minimum of 3 additional courses chosen from one or more of those topic areas, for a total of 9 separate courses in the topic areas of marital and family studies, marital and family therapy, and human development.

(a) Marital and family studies; a minimum of 2 separate courses and 6 semester hours or 8 quarter hours of academic credit. The courses shall relate directly to family development and family interactional patterns across the life cycle of the family as well as the family. Course work shall include one or more of the following areas: the study of family life cycle; theories of family development; marriage and the family; sociology of the family; families under stress; the contemporary family; the family in a social context; the cross-cultural family; youth, adult, aging and the family; family subsystems; and individual, interpersonal relationships involving marital, parental, and sibling relations.

(b) Marital and family therapy; a minimum of 2 separate courses and 6 semester hours or 8 quarter hours of academic credit. The course work shall include one or more of the following areas: the study of family therapy methodology; family assessment; treatment and intervention methods in family or marital therapy; overview of major clinical theories of marital and family therapy

such as: communications, contextual, experiential, object relations, strategic, structural, systemic, transgenerational.

(c) Human development; a minimum of 2 separate courses and 6 semester hours or 8 quarter hours of academic credit. The course work shall include one or more of the following areas: the study of human development; personality theory; human sexuality; psychopathology; and behavior–pathology.

(d) Professional studies; a minimum of 1 course and 3 semester hours or 4 quarter hours of academic credit. The course work shall include one or more of the following areas: the study of professional socialization and the role of the professional organization; legal responsibilities and liabilities; independent practice and interprofessional cooperation; ethics; and family law.

(e) Research; a minimum of 1 course and 3 semester hours or 4 quarter hours of academic credit. The course work shall include one or more of the following areas: research design; methods and statistics; and research in marital and family studies and therapy.

(f) Clinical practicum; clinical practice as part of an academic program in marriage and family therapy or a substantially equivalent field, including at least 300 hours in face–to–face contact with individuals, couples, and families for the purpose of assessment, diagnosis, and treatment, accumulated under supervision in not less than 8 calendar months and not more than 24 calendar months.

**Note:** The clinical practice required in an academic program in order to meet the educational equivalency of a master’s or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy shall not be considered to fulfill any part of the postgraduate supervised practice requirement for licensure eligibility. A person who is working towards the equivalent of a graduate degree in marriage and family therapy shall complete the 300 hours of supervised practice as part of the academic equivalency, and shall also complete the 3,000 hours of postgraduate supervised practice required of all applicants for a license as a marriage and family therapist.

**(2)** Proof that the applicant has, after obtaining a master’s or doctoral degree in a field substantially equivalent to marriage and family therapy, successfully completed and received academic credit for course work at an accredited institution or a regionally accredited college or university, which, when combined with course work supporting the master’s or doctoral degree in the substantially equivalent field, meets the criteria stated in sub. (1).

**(3)** Proof that the applicant has been admitted to clinical membership in the American association for marriage and family therapy after review of appropriate training and experience may be considered as the equivalent of a graduate degree in marriage and family therapy from an accredited institution on the marriage and family therapists section’s review of documentation of the applicant’s clinical membership in the American association for marriage and family therapy. The applicant shall request the American association for marriage and family therapy to send documentation of the applicant’s clinical membership in the American association for marriage and family therapy and the date the membership was granted directly to the marriage and family therapists section from the American association of marriage and family therapy.

**History:** Cr. Register, November, 1993, No. 455, eff. 12–1–93; r. (4), Register, November, 1999, No. 527, eff. 12–1–99.

**MPSW 16.03 Supervised clinical practice.** The person whose practice is being supervised shall receive a minimum of one hour of face–to–face supervision for each 10 client contact hours. Only those individuals who hold a valid marriage and fam-

ily therapist training certificate may begin accumulating hours towards their postgraduate supervised practice requirements.

**History:** Cr. Register, November, 1993, No. 455, eff. 12–1–93; CR 01–151: am. Register July 2002 No. 559, eff. 8–1–02; CR 02–105: am. Register October 2002 No. 562, eff. 11–1–02; CR 05–051: am. Register March 2006 No. 603, eff. 4–1–06.

**MPSW 16.05 Qualifications of a person providing practice supervision.** (1) Supervision of a period of supervised practice of marriage and family therapy may be exercised by either:

(a) An individual licensed as a marriage and family therapist who has received a doctorate degree in marriage and family therapy.

(b) An individual licensed as a marriage and family therapist who has engaged in the equivalent of 5 years of full–time marriage and family therapy practice.

(c) A psychiatrist or a psychologist licensed under ch. 455, Stats.

(d) A person who holds an “approved supervisor” certificate from the American association for marriage and family therapy.

(e) An individual, other than an individual specified in par. (a), (b), (c) or (d), who is approved in advance by the marriage and family therapist section.

**(2)** Supervision of required postgraduate clinical practice shall be conducted by a supervisor with adequate training, knowledge and skill to competently supervise any marriage and family therapy service that a marriage and family therapist undertakes. The supervision of the practice of marriage and family therapy may be exercised by a person other than an employment supervisor. The supervisor may not permit a supervisee to engage in any marriage and family therapy practice that the supervisor cannot competently supervise. All supervisors shall be legally and ethically responsible for the activities of the marriage and family therapist supervisee. Supervisors shall be available or make appropriate provision for emergency consultation and intervention. Supervisors shall be able to interrupt or stop the supervisee from practicing in given cases, or recommend to the supervisee’s employer that the employer interrupt or stop the supervisee from practicing in given cases, and to terminate the supervised relationship if necessary.

**(3)** It is the applicant’s responsibility to satisfy the marriage and family therapists section that the applicant’s supervisor met all qualifications.

**History:** Cr. Register, November, 1993, No. 455, eff. 12–1–93; CR 02–105: r. and recr. Register October 2002 No. 562, eff. 11–1–02.

**MPSW 16.06 Limitations on group supervision.**

**(1)** If supervision is provided in group sessions, the group shall consist of no more than 6 persons receiving supervision for every one person providing supervision.

**(2)** If supervision is provided in group sessions, each person receiving supervision as part of the group session receives one hour credit for each hour that the group meets for supervision, but may not credit any time which is primarily social activity with the group or supervisor as part of a supervision session.

**(3)** A supervision session for a group or individual which is provided by more than one supervisor may not be credited for more than the actual time elapsed during the supervision session, not including social activities.

**History:** Cr. Register, November, 1993, No. 455, eff. 12–1–93.