

## Chapter SFC 16

## REQUIREMENTS FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY CERTIFICATION

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Note: Chapter SFC 16 was created as an emergency rule effective April 26, 1993.

**SFC 16.01 Application for certification as a marriage and family therapist.** (1) In addition to paying the fee specified in s. 440.08 (2) (a), Stats., an applicant for certification 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. SFC 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 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. SFC 16.02.

(b) An affidavit that the applicant has completed the equivalent of 2 years of supervised practice of marriage and family therapy under the supervision of a supervisor approved by the section.

(c) Verification of successful completion of the examination required.

(d) Verification of the applicant's licensure 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 the equivalent of 2 years of supervised practice of marriage and family therapy under the supervision of a supervisor approved by the section.

(b) Verification of successful completion of the examination required.

(c) Verification of the applicant's licensure 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.

(3) Individuals who do not possess either a master's or doctoral degree in marriage or family therapy, or a substantially equivalent field, and who have not been admitted to clinical membership in the American association for marriage and family therapy but who have completed the educational and practice requirements set forth in s. SFC 16.02 (4) and who submit an application on or before May 31, 1995, shall submit the fee specified in s. 440.08 (2) (a), Stats., together with the completed, signed application form and:

(a) Transcripts and affidavits sufficient to prove the completion of the educational requirements set forth in s. SFC 16.02 (4). Transcripts shall be submitted to the section directly from the college or university issuing the transcripts.

(b) Affidavits sufficient to prove the completion of the practice requirements set forth in s. SFC 16.02 (4).

(c) Verification of the applicant's licensure 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.

## SFC 16.02

**SFC 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 sub-

stantially 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 certification 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 2 years of postgraduate supervised practice required of all applicants for a certificate 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.

(4) Proof that an applicant who applies on or before May 31, 1995, has been awarded a master's or doctoral degree in a field substantially equivalent to marriage and family therapy from a regionally accredited college or university. The applicant shall provide documentation of having completed at least 8 courses from the areas under sub. (1) (a) to (f). The applicant shall be required to document completion of at least one course in each of the categories in sub. (1) (a) to (c). The applicant shall also provide an affidavit documenting 2 years of full-time practice of marriage and family therapy under the supervision of a qualified supervisor, followed by 3 years of full-time independent practice of marriage and family therapy.

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

**SFC 16.03 Supervised clinical practice.** For purposes of meeting the postgraduate supervised practice requirement, 2 years of clinical practice of marriage and family therapy consists of 1,000 hours of client contact over a period of not less than 24 months. The person whose practice is being supervised shall receive a minimum of 50 hours of face-to-face supervision within each 12 month period of supervised practice. Practice of marriage and family therapy which occurs as part of the requirements for obtaining a master's or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy or a substantially related field shall not be considered

to fulfill any part of the postgraduate supervised practice requirement.

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

**SFC 16.04 Supervised practice requirement for psychotherapy.** The supervised practice period required as a prerequisite for a certificate as a marriage and family therapist counts towards the completion of the supervised practice period required of a person who wishes to include psychotherapeutic services in his or her practice as a certified marriage and family therapist, but no marriage and family therapist may perform psychotherapy without supervision with any client until the marriage and family therapist has completed the equivalent of 2 years full-time supervised practice of marriage and family therapy.

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

**SFC 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) A person who holds an 'approved supervisor' certificate from the American association for marriage and family therapy; or

(b) A person who holds a master's or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy or a substantially equivalent field, if the person has course work in supervision of marriage and family therapy; or

(c) A person with 3 years of experience supervising the provision of marriage and family therapy services following 3 years of independent practice of marriage and family therapy.

(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.

**SFC 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.