

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.

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Note: Chapter SFC 14 was created as an emergency rule effective April 26, 1993. **Note:** Chapter SFC 14 was renumbered ch. MPSW 14 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 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 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.

(2) The course work included successful completion of at least 3 semester hours or 4 quarter hours academic credit in a supervised counseling practicum; at least 3 semester hours or 4 quarter hours academic credit in a counseling theory course; and at least one course of at least 3 semester hours or 4 quarter hours academic credit in at least 6 of the following 8 topic areas; and the course work included a total of at least 42 semester hours or 63 quarter hours of academic credit in counseling related courses distributed among at least 6 of the following 8 topic areas:

(a) 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, and learning theory within appropriate cultural contexts.

(b) Social and cultural foundations — studies that provide a broad understanding of societal changes and trends, human roles, societal subgroups, social mores and interaction patterns, and differing lifestyles.

(c) The helping relationship — studies that provide a broad understanding of philosophic bases of helping processes, counseling theories and their applications, 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.

(d) 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.

(e) 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.

(f) 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 statis-

tics, factors influencing appraisals, and use of appraisals results in helping processes.

(g) 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.

(h) 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.

(3) For purposes of this section, one academic quarter credit is equivalent to two-thirds of one academic semester credit.

(4) To reach course equivalency, an applicant may take up to 12 credit hours of courses, which may include a supervised counseling practicum, outside of his or her master's program.

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.

MPSW 14.02 Academic program equivalent to a doctorate in professional counseling. An academic program is the equivalent of a doctoral degree in professional 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 doctoral degree in a field closely related to professional counseling.

(2) The course work included successful completion of at least 3 semester hours or 4 quarter hours academic credit in a supervised counseling practicum; at least 3 semester hours or 4 quarter hours academic credit in a counseling theory course; and at least one course of at least 3 semester hours or 4 quarter hours academic credit in each of the 8 topic areas defined in s. MPSW 14.01 (2); and the course work included at least 48 semester hours or 72 quarter hours of academic credit distributed among those 8 counseling related topic areas.

(3) For purposes of this section, one academic quarter credit is equivalent to two-thirds of one academic semester credit.

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.

MPSW 14.03 Continuing education requirements for license renewal. (1) Unless granted a postponement or waiver of the continuing education requirement, every licensed professional counselor is required to complete at least 30 continuing education credit hours in approved continuing education programs during each 2 year licensure period. This requirement will apply for the first time to the 2 year period beginning July 1, 2003.

(2) Unless granted a postponement or waiver of the continuing education requirement, a licensee who fails to meet continuing education requirements by the renewal deadline must discontinue the use of the title "professional counselor" and must cease the practice of professional counseling until he or she completes the continuing education requirement.

(3) During the time between initial licensure and commencement of a full 2 year certification period, a new license holder is not required to meet continuing education requirements for the first renewal of his or her license.

(4) Applicants for licensure by reciprocity shall submit proof of completion of at least 30 continuing education hours substantially meeting the requirements of this chapter within the 2 year period prior to application.

(5) Continuing education hours may apply only to the 2 year license period in which the credit hours are acquired, unless either of the following applies:

(a) Continuing education hours required as a consequence of a disciplinary proceeding may not be counted towards the fulfillment of generally applicable continuing education requirements.

(b) If the licensee fails to meet the continuing education requirement the renewal date to satisfy the requirement of the preceding period will not apply to the period in which they are earned.

(6) To obtain credit for completion of continuing education programs, a professional counselor shall certify on his or her application for renewal of license that he or she has completed all continuing education credits as required in this section for the previous 2 year license period. A licensee shall retain for a minimum period of 4 years, and shall make available to the board or its agent upon request, certificates of attendance issued by the program sponsor for all continuing education programs for which he or she claims credit for purposes of renewal of his or her license.

(7) A licensee may apply to the section for a postponement or waiver of the requirements of this chapter on grounds of prolonged illness, disability, or other grounds constituting extreme hardship. The section shall consider each application individually on its merits, and the section may grant a postponement, partial

waiver or total waiver as deemed appropriate in the circumstances.

(8) The section may grant an exemption from the requirements of this chapter to a licensee who certifies to the section that he or she has permanently retired and no longer uses the title "professional counselor" and no longer practices professional counseling. A licensee who has been granted an exemption from the requirements of this chapter based on retirement may not return to the active practice of professional counseling or use the title "professional counselor" without submitting evidence satisfactory to the section that he or she completed at least 30 continuing education hours for each of the biennia during which the licensee was granted an exemption.

(9) The section may conduct audits or investigations, including random audits, to determine compliance by licensees with this chapter.

History: CR 02-105: cr. Register October 2002 No. 562, eff. 11-1-02.

MPSW 14.04 Approved continuing education programs. The following continuing education programs and other educational activities are approved as continuing education programs under this chapter:

(1) Any continuing education program approved, sponsored or provided by the national rehabilitation counselor association (NRCA), the American rehabilitation counselor association (ARCA), or the Wisconsin rehabilitation counselor association (WRCA).

(2) Any continuing education program sponsored by the national board for certified counselors (NBCC) or by a provider approved by NBCC.

(3) Any continuing education program approved, sponsored or provided by the American counselor association (ACA) or the Wisconsin counselor association (WCA).

(4) Any continuing education program approved by the commission on rehabilitation counselor certification (CBCC).

(5) Any continuing education program offered by a college or university accredited by the commission for accreditation of counseling and related educational programs (CACREP).

History: CR 02-105: cr. Register October 2002 No. 562, eff. 11-1-02.