

**Report From Agency**

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

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**IN THE MATTER OF RULEMAKING :  
PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE :  
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY, : REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE  
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING, AND : CR 19-115  
SOCIAL WORK EXAMINING BOARD :**

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**I. THE PROPOSED RULE:**

The proposed rule, including the analysis and text, is attached.

**II. REFERENCE TO APPLICABLE FORMS:**

N/A

**III. FISCAL ESTIMATE AND EIA:**

The Fiscal Estimate and EIA is attached.

**IV. DETAILED STATEMENT EXPLAINING THE BASIS AND PURPOSE OF THE  
PROPOSED RULE, INCLUDING HOW THE PROPOSED RULE ADVANCES  
RELEVANT STATUTORY GOALS OR PURPOSES:**

The rule clarifies that courses taken outside of the program study leading to a master's or doctorate degree are acceptable to obtain program equivalency, and that individuals may begin to accrue clinical practice hours upon completion of a graduate degree in a mental health field approved by the marriage and family therapist section, and enrollment in a graduate degree program or other educational program in marriage and family therapy accredited by COAMFTE.

**V. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS AND THE BOARD'S RESPONSES,  
EXPLANATION OF MODIFICATIONS TO PROPOSED RULES PROMPTED  
BY PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**The Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling, and Social Work  
Examining Board held a public hearing on October 15, 2019. The following people  
either testified at the hearing, or submitted written comments:**

Mr. Kevin O'Brien, Director, Aurora Family Therapy Training Institute

**The Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling, and Social Work Examining Board summarizes the comments received either by hearing testimony or by written submission as follows:**

Mr. O'Brien expressed concern that neither the rules as they currently exist, nor the preliminary rule draft for CR 19-115, recognized a post-graduate certificate program accredited by COAMFTE as acceptable education for licensure purposes. He also expressed concern that the rules do not specifically state that enrollees in such a post-graduate program may begin accumulating clinical practice hours towards their licensure requirement.

**The Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling, and Social Work Examining Board explains modifications to its rule-making proposal prompted by public comments as follows:**

The board determined it was appropriate to revise the proposed rule text to take Mr. O'Brien's concerns into account. The rule text was amended to clarify that a post-graduate certificate program accredited by COAMFTE is acceptable education for licensure, and that enrollees in the program may begin accumulating clinical training hours.

**VI. RESPONSE TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**Comment:** The text of Section 1 of the proposed rule should be revised to state that "MPSW 16.02 is renumbered MPSW 16.02 (1)". This is because, in order to create a new sub. (2) under the proposed rule, the entire current section, including s. MPSW 16.02 (intro.) and (1) to (9) must be renumbered as sub. (1) and pars. (a) to (i). Alternatively, the agency could repeal and recreate s. MPSW 16.02, including the material added by the proposed rule.

**Response:** The board has accepted this recommendation and has changed Section 1 to state that s. MPSW 16.02 is being repealed and recreated, including the material added by the proposed rule.

**VII. REPORT FROM THE SBRRB AND FINAL REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ANALYSIS: N/A**