

## Chapter MPSW 19

### CONTINUING EDUCATION

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**Note:** Chapter SFC 19 was renumbered ch. MPSW 19 under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 1., Stats., and corrections made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 7., Stats., Register October 2002 No. 562. Chapter MPSW 19 was repealed and recreated, Register February 2015 No. 710, eff. 3-1-15.

#### **MPSW 19.01 Definitions.** In this chapter:

(1) “Board” means the marriage and family therapy, professional counseling, and social work examining board.

(2) “Interactive learning format” means a live, synchronous presentation with discussion or an asynchronous educational program by a provider under s. MPSW 19.03 (1) (a) or (f).

(3) “Section” means any of the following:

- (a) Marriage and family therapy section.
- (b) Professional counseling section.
- (c) Social worker section.

**History:** CR 13-117: cr. Register February 2015 No. 710, eff. 3-1-15.

#### **MPSW 19.02 Continuing education requirements.**

(1) Unless granted a postponement or waiver of the continuing education requirement under s. MPSW 19.04, every marriage and family therapist, professional counselor, social worker, advanced practice social worker, independent social worker, and clinical social worker shall complete at least 30 continuing education credit hours in approved continuing education programs during each 2 year credential period and certify on the application for renewal that all required education was completed. Unless granted a postponement or waiver of the continuing education requirement, a credential holder who fails to meet the continuing education requirements by the renewal deadline must discontinue the use of the title.

(2) A minimum of 4 continuing education credit hours, of the required 30 continuing education credit hours, shall be in the area of professional ethics and boundaries related to the practice of marriage and family therapy, professional counseling, or social work.

(a) A person holding multiple credentials granted by the board shall complete only a minimum of 4 continuing education credit hours in the area of professional ethics and boundaries.

(b) Social work credential holders shall complete their ethics continuing education credit hours in an interactive learning format.

(3) During the time between receiving the initial credential and commencement of a full 2 year credentialing period, a new credential holder is not required to meet continuing education requirements for the first renewal of the credential.

(4) Continuing education credit hours shall apply only to the 2 year credential period in which the credit hours are completed, unless either of the following applies:

(a) Continuing education credit 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 credential holder fails to meet the continuing educa-

tion requirement during a 2 year credential period, any additional continuing education credit hours completed on or after the renewal date to satisfy the requirement of the preceding period will not apply to the period in which they are earned.

**History:** CR 13-117: cr. Register February 2015 No. 710, eff. 3-1-15; correction in (1) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 7., Stats., Register August 2017 No. 740.

#### **MPSW 19.03 Approved continuing education.** (1)

Continuing education programs, if relevant to the professional practice of marriage and family therapy, professional counseling, or social work, are approved as follows:

(a) Any continuing education program approved, sponsored, provided, endorsed, or authorized by:

1. American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) or affiliated divisions.
2. Wisconsin Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (WAMFT).
3. National Rehabilitation Counseling Association (NRCA).
4. American Rehabilitation Counseling Association (ARCA).
6. National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC).
7. American Counseling Association (ACA).
8. Wisconsin Counseling Association (WCA).
10. Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC).
11. Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB).
12. National Association of Social Workers (NASW) or affiliated chapters.
13. Association of Baccalaureate Program Directors (BPD).
14. Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).
15. National Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counseling (NAADAC) or affiliated divisions.
16. Wisconsin School Social Workers Association (WSSWA).

(b) Any continuing education program or course offered by a training program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE).

(c) Any continuing education program approved, sponsored, or co-sponsored by a presenter approved by the Committee for the Approval of Continuing Education Sponsors of the American Psychological Association.

(d) Any educational programs, recognized as approved at the time of attendance as “Category I” continuing medical education programs by the Council on Medical Education of the American Medical Association or the American Osteopathic Association.

(e) Any course or continuing education program offered by an accredited college or university.

(f) Public and private agencies that provide in-house training and development programs. Only 15 of the required 30 continuing education credit hours shall be met through in-house training and development programs which are not approved by an organization identified in pars. (a) to (e).

(2) Continuing education hours may be awarded for the following professional activities, if relevant to the professional practice of marriage and family therapy, professional counseling, or social work:

(a) A presenter of professional material shall receive 1 continuing education credit hour per hour of continuing education. A developer of professional material shall receive 1 continuing education credit hour per hour of development of continuing education. A presenter of a semester education course shall receive 20 continuing education credit hours. No additional continuing education credit hours will be granted for subsequent presentations of the same material. A presenter of professional material at any of the following qualifies for continuing education:

1. Seminars, workshops, programs, or institutions approved in sub. (1) (a) to (f).
2. University, college, or vocational technical adult education courses.

(b) Authorship of a published textbook or professional resource book. Authors of a book shall receive 20 continuing education credit hours.

(c) Authorship of a published chapter in a textbook or professional resource book, or a professional journal article. Authors of chapters or articles shall receive 8 continuing education credit hours. No more than 16 continuing education hours may be obtained for authorship of chapters or articles.

(d) Authorship of alternative or electronic media or computer software. Authorship of these materials shall receive 8 continuing education credit hours. No more than 16 continuing education hours may be obtained for authorship of alternative or electronic media or computer software.

**History:** CR 13-117: cr. Register February 2015 No. 710, eff. 3-1-15; corrections in (1) (f), (2) (a) 1. made under s. 35.17, Stats., Register February 2015 No. 710; **CR 24-097: r. (1) (a) 5., 9., cr. (1) (a) 16. Register June 2025 No. 834, eff. 7-1-25.**

**MPSW 19.04 Postponement, waiver, and exemption.** (1) A credential holder 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.

(2) The section may grant an exemption from the requirements of this chapter to a credential holder who certifies to the section that the credential holder has retired and no longer uses the title “marriage and family therapist,” “professional counselor,” “social worker,” “advanced practice social worker,” “independent social worker,” or “clinical social worker,” and no longer practices marriage and family therapy, professional counseling, or social work. The credential holder’s status will change to non-practicing.

(3) A credential holder who has been granted an exemption due to retirement may not return to the active practice or use the title without submitting evidence satisfactory to the section that the credential holder has completed at least 30 continuing education credit hours for each of the biennia during which the credential holder was granted an exemption.

**History:** CR 13-117: cr. Register February 2015 No. 710, eff. 3-1-15.

**MPSW 19.05 Record retention and audits.** A credential holder shall retain for a minimum period of 4 years and shall make available to the board, or its agent upon request, documentation of publication or certificates of attendance issued by the program sponsor for all continuing education programs for which the credential holder claims credit for purposes of renewal of the credential. The certificate shall include the name of credential holder, date, provider name, hours, and title of program.

**History:** CR 13-117: cr. Register February 2015 No. 710, eff. 3-1-15; CR 17-094: r. (2) Register July 2018 No. 751, eff. 8-1-18; renum. (1) to MPSW 19.05 under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., Register July 2018 No. 751.