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Governor Scott Walker Secretary Dave Ross

Positions Statements Related to Social Work Training Certificate Issued by the Joint Board of Marriage & Family Therapy, Professional Counseling and Social Work

What is the Social Work Training Certificate?

The Social Work Training Certificate (SWTC) is a credential granted to a person holding one of a small number of specific undergraduate degrees in a related social science (but not a degree in Social Work). The credential holder is allowed to use the title “social worker” while completing additional academic and experience requirements during a two-year time period. If all requirements are completed during that time, the applicant is granted certification as a Certified Social Worker (CSW).

What degrees qualify?

The Wisconsin Legislature has designated three bachelor’s degrees that qualify by statute: Sociology, Psychology, and Criminal Justice. A bachelor’s degree in human services shall be approved by the Social Work Section if it meets specific requirements in MPSW 3.13 (1)(a)1.

What classes do I need?

If the Bachelor’s degree qualifies, a person seeking to obtain social work certification through the Social Work Training Certificate must take five courses that are based on academic requirements found in accredited social work degree programs:

- a) **Social welfare policy and services.** At least one course of at least 3 semester hours or 4 quarter hours academic credit.
- b) **Social work practice methods with individuals, families, small groups, communities, organizations and social institutions – generalist practice methods.** At least 3 courses each consisting of at least 3 semester hours or 4 quarter hours academic credit.
- c) **Human behavior in the social environment, including human growth and development, and social systems theory.** At least one course of at least 3 semester hours or 4 quarter hours academic credit.

What is the experience requirement?

A person seeking to obtain social work certification needs to complete a period of supervised social work practice.

The applicant must complete either:

- 1) An internship consisting of at least 400 hours that was part of the program leading to the degree or completed while holding the SWTC. The internship shall be under the auspices of an accredited college or university, OR
- 2) One year of social work employment completed while holding the training certificate, which involved at least 400 hours of face-to-face client contact.

Please note that supervisors of persons completing either the internship option or the employment option must hold a bachelor's or master's degree in social work.

Can I provide therapy services while holding the Training Certificate?

No. Therapy cannot be provided by persons holding the Social Work Training Certificate or Certified Social Worker credentials.