

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon  
Governor  
State of Missouri

Jane A. Rackers, Division Director  
DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

Department of Insurance  
Financial Institutions  
and Professional Registration  
John M. Huff, Director

---

**STATE COMMITTEE OF MARITAL & FAMILY THERAPISTS**

3605 Missouri Boulevard  
P.O. Box 1335  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-1335  
Telephone: 573/751-0870  
Fax: 573/751-0735  
800-735-2966 TTY Relay Missouri  
800-735-2466 Voice Relay Missouri  
[maritalfam@pr.mo.gov](mailto:maritalfam@pr.mo.gov)

Loree V. Kessler, MPA  
Executive Director

**EDUCATORS' ROUNDTABLE AGENDA**  
**MISSOURI STATE COMMITTEE OF MARITAL & FAMILY THERAPISTS**  
**April 11, 2014 – 10:00 a.m.**  
**MISSOURI DENTAL ASSOCIATION**  
**3340 American Avenue – Jefferson City, Missouri**

**10: 00 a.m. Welcome** – Jane Rackers, Director  
Missouri Division of Professional Registration

**Introduction of State Committee Members & Staff**

**Introduction – Roundtable Attendants**

What do you hope to take away from this meeting?  
How important is this topic?  
Given the topic, is there an area of interest you hope is addressed?

**Overview/History** – Loree Kessler, MPA Executive Director MO State Committee of Marital & Family Therapists  
Regulatory & Statutory Changes Relating to Distance Education

**Research Project** – Brittany Robinson, PLMFT

**Regulatory Review & Discussion Questions** – Sharon Euler, Division Counsel

- Moderator Role
- Sunshine Law
- Sharing of Collective Knowledge

**Topic 1 - Academic Preparation** – Attributes of a course of study that adequately prepares a person to enter the post degree supervised experience phase of licensure.

20 CSR 2233 - 2.010(9) Distance Education Regulation & Discussion Questions  
20 CSR 2233 - 2.010 Educational Requirements & Discussion Questions

**Topic 2 - Licensure Supervision** - Attributes of competent supervision of future therapists.

20 CSR 2233-2020 Supervised Marital & Family Work Experience

Questions & Comments

## **TOPIC 1 – ACADEMIC PREPARATION**

### **20 CSR 2233-2.010 Educational Requirements**

(9) Any course offered primarily via correspondence course, Internet (such as a chat room or discussion group), electronic mail (email), or similar delivery method or system or by audio or video tape or non-interactive communication, shall not be acceptable for course work pursuant to 20 CSR 2233-2.010 (8) (A)–(G), even if credit is awarded by the educational institution and the offering appears on the transcript.

(A) For the purpose of this rule non-interactive communication shall be defined as those courses transmitted via satellite in which the student has no means of simultaneously interacting with the course instructor visually and verbally during the transmission of course information.

### **Discussion Questions**

- 1. Is the delivery of a master's program in MFT different from a master's degree in another professional field, for example, health care administration or nursing?**
- 2. What is the State Committee's role in the oversight of programs and courses delivered through distance education?**
- 3. How can the Committee ensure these types of courses provide adequate training for individuals seeking licensure?**
- 4. How do distance based programs ensure appropriate academic rigor for students in comparison to brick and mortar programs?**
- 5. Are there core area courses, defined within the current rule, that lend themselves to a distance educational format? Are there core area courses that do not?**
- 6. Does accreditation by a body recognized by the US Department of Education, number of total hours, core area definitions sufficiently address the need to ensure a proper educational base for licensees?**
- 7. Does the current rule have an impact upon brick and mortar programs? If the rule were amended to allow distance based programs and/or courses, what is the likelihood Missouri schools would include this delivery method within their current graduate program?**

## **TOPIC 1 – ACADEMIC PREPARATION**

(CONTINUED)

### **20 CSR 2233-2.010 Educational Requirements**

*PURPOSE: This rule defines the educational requirements to be licensed as a marital and family therapist.*

(1) To apply for licensure or supervision, an applicant shall have received a graduate degree at the master, specialist or doctoral level with either a major in marriage and family therapy or an equivalent graduate course of study in a mental health discipline from a regionally accredited institution acceptable to the United States Department of Education.

(A) A graduate program in marriage and family therapy shall consist of at least forty five (45) semester hours or sixty (60) quarter hours of study in the area of marriage and family therapy; or

(B) An equivalent graduate course of study in a mental health discipline shall consist of at least forty-five (45) semester hours or sixty (60) quarter hours of study. The applicant shall have completed graduate or postgraduate course work in each core area as defined in 20 CSR 2233-2.010(7)(A)–(F).

(2) When evaluating transcripts based on a quarter hour system, the state committee shall consider a quarter hour of academic credit as two-thirds (2/3) of a semester hour. A semester hour of credit shall be defined as fifteen (15) clock hours of regularly scheduled classroom study.

(3) For graduate training beginning prior to January 1, 1981, an applicant shall have completed the following:

(A) Six (6) semester hours or ten (10) quarter hours of study in the area of marriage and family therapy or mental health intervention. For the purpose of this rule, mental health intervention shall be defined as course work covering therapeutic methods for the assessment and treatment of mental disorders; and

(B) Six (6) semester hours or ten (10) quarter hours of study in the areas of human development and family studies or human development; and

(C) Three (3) semester hours or five (5) quarter hours of practicum.

(D) An applicant shall meet all of the educational requirements and shall apply for supervision or licensure by August 31, 2007.

(4) For graduate training beginning after January 1, 1981 and before August 31, 2000, applicants shall have completed the following:

(A) Six (6) semester hours or (10) ten quarter hours of study in the area of marriage and family therapy; and

(B) Six (6) semester hours or (10) ten quarter hours of study in the area of human development and family studies; and

(C) Three (3) semester hours or five (5) quarter hours of research methodology; and

(D) Three (3) semester hours or five (5) quarter hours of study in the area of ethics and professional studies; and

(E) Three (3) semester hours or five (5) quarter hours of practicum.

(F) An applicant shall meet all of the educational requirements for licensure and shall apply for licensure or supervision by August 31, 2007.

(5) For graduate training beginning after August 31, 2000, the applicant shall have completed the following:

- (A) Three (3) semester hours or five (5) quarter hours of study in the area of theoretical foundations of marriage and family therapy; and
- (B) Twelve (12) semester hours or twenty (20) quarter hours of study in the area of the practice of marriage and family therapy; and
- (C) Six (6) semester hours or ten (10) quarter hours of study in the area of human development and family studies; and
- (D) Three (3) semester hours or five (5) quarter hours of study in the area of ethics and professional studies; and
- (E) Three (3) semester hours or five (5) quarter hours of study in the area of research methodology; and
- (F) Six (6) semester hours or ten (10) quarter hours of practicum in marital and family therapy, including at least five hundred (500) hours of client contact.

(6) Effective August 28, 2008 an applicant for supervision or licensure shall document completion of three (3) semester hours or five (5) quarter hours of study in the area of diagnostic systems either within the curriculum leading to a master, doctoral, or specialist degree, or a post master's graduate level course work prior to the issuance of a license.

(A) This regulation shall not apply to a person with an application for supervision or licensure filed with the state committee prior to August 28, 2008.

(7) Graduate course work in marriage and family therapy or a course of study in a mental health discipline from a school, college or university or other institution of higher learning outside the United States may be considered

in compliance with these rules if, at the time the applicant was enrolled and graduated, the school, college, university or other institution of higher learning maintained a standard of training substantially equivalent to the standards of training of those institutions accredited by one of the regional accrediting commissions recognized by the United States Department of Education.

(A) A graduate program in marriage and family therapy shall consist of at least forty-five (45) semester hours or sixty (60) quarter hours of study in the area of marriage and family therapy; or

(B) An equivalent graduate course of study in a mental health discipline shall consist of at least forty-five (45) semester hours or sixty (60) quarter hours of study. The applicant shall have completed graduate or postgraduate course work in each core area as defined in 20 CSR 2233-2.010(8) (A)–(G).

(8) A course shall be counted once in granting credit for a core area and shall be an in-depth study solely devoted to a particular core area. No core area credit shall be given for courses which contain only a component or some aspects of a core area. The core areas are defined as follows:

(A) Theoretical Foundations of Marriage and Family Therapy—Courses in this area cover the development, theoretical foundations, contemporary conceptual directions, and critical philosophical issues of marriage and family therapy;

(B) The Practice of Marriage and Family Therapy—Courses in this area cover the historical development, theoretical foundations, contemporary conceptual directions, and critical philosophical issues of marriage and family therapy and applied marriage and family therapy practice. Within the context of systems theory and marriage and family therapy, courses will cover assessment, evaluation and treatment of dysfunctional relationship patterns and mental disorders consistent with the scope of practice as defined in section 337.700(7), RSMo. Major marriage and family therapy assessment methods and instruments shall be covered;

(C) Human Development and Family Studies—Courses in this area cover the life cycle of individuals, couples and families and the modification of relationship dynamics over time from a systems perspective. Courses shall address issues of relationships, normal development and dysfunctional patterns, as well as issues of sexuality, gender, ethnicity, race, socioeconomic status, religion, culture and other issues of diversity which emerge in a pluralistic society;

(D) Ethics and Professional Studies— Courses in this area cover the development of professional commitment, identity, and accountability. Studies shall include professional socialization and professional organizations, licensure and credentials, legal responsibilities and liabilities of clinical practice and research, business ethics in professional practice, family law, confidentiality, professional marital and family therapy codes of ethics, and cooperation with members of other mental health professions. The course shall be specific to the practice and profession of marriage and family therapy;

(E) Research Methodology—Courses in this area cover an understanding of research methodology and data analysis with the ability to evaluate research. Course content shall include both qualitative and quantitative research;

(F) Practicum in Marriage and Family Therapy—The practicum or internship consists of direct, face-to-face client contact to include couple and family formats. Individual supervision with one (1) or two (2) students in face-to-face consultation with a supervisor shall be provided. Students shall be trained to make relevant assessments of client systems; and

(G) Effective August 28, 2008 Diagnostic Systems—Courses in this area provide an understanding and a working knowledge of psychodiagnostics using classification systems with an emphasis on the current edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM). Course content regarding the DSM must include understanding the organizational structure, professional terminology used in the manual, and competence in its application as it is used in the assessment process and subsequent treatment planning relative to the practice of marital and family therapy.

(9) Any course offered primarily via correspondence course, Internet (such as a chat room or discussion group), electronic mail (email), or similar delivery method or system or by audio or video tape or non-interactive communication, shall not be acceptable for course work pursuant to 20 CSR 2233-2.010 (8) (A)–(G), even if credit is awarded by the educational institution and the offering appears on the transcript.

(A) For the purpose of this rule non-interactive communication shall be defined as those courses transmitted via satellite in which the student has no means of simultaneously interacting with the course instructor visually and verbally during the transmission of course information.

(10) Independent studies, courses listed on the transcript as a seminar, and readings courses shall be clearly delineated on the transcript and shall be submitted to the state committee for review and approval. It shall

be the applicant's responsibility to document that the course work is in compliance with the core course requirements defined in 20 CSR 2233-2.010 (8) (A)–(G). The applicant may submit course descriptions from course catalogs, syllabi, bulletins or through written documentation from an appropriate school official stating that the course was an in-depth study of a particular core area.

(11) Undergraduate level course work is in compliance with core requirements as defined in this rule if the applicant's official transcript clearly shows that the course was awarded graduate credit by the school.

(12) Courses provided by a post-degree institute accredited by an accrediting body which has been approved by the United States Department of Education may be acceptable as meeting core course requirements defined in 20 CSR 2233-2.010 (8)(A)–(G). It shall be the

applicant's responsibility to document that the course work is in compliance with the core course requirements defined in this rule. The applicant may submit course descriptions from course catalogs, syllabi, bulletins or through written documentation from an appropriate official stating that the course was an in-depth study of a particular core area.

(13) The applicant has the burden of demonstrating that the academic course work and training constituted a program of study in marriage and family therapy or a mental health discipline. A final determination of whether the program of study which formed the basis of the applicant's degree was marriage and family therapy or a mental health discipline shall be within the discretion of the state committee.

(14) The state committee shall review an applicant's educational credentials upon request from an applicant and upon receipt of official educational transcripts received directly from the university or post-degree institute accredited by an accrediting body which has been approved by the United States Department of Education and upon payment of the fee as defined in 20 CSR 2233-1.040(1) (H). All information shall be submitted to the state committee no later than thirty (30) days prior to a regularly scheduled state committee meeting to be reviewed at that meeting.

(15) The state committee shall review an applicant's proposed plan for obtaining an appropriate educational degree and/or course work upon receiving a request from an individual, receipt of the photocopies of official school documents, such as course syllabi or catalog descriptions of course work and degree programs, and upon payment of the fee as defined in 20 CSR 2233-1.040(1) (H). All information shall be submitted to the state committee no later than thirty (30) days prior to a regularly scheduled state committee meeting to be reviewed at that meeting.

*AUTHORITY: section 337.715, RSMo Supp. 2007 and section 337.727, RSMo 2000.\* This rule originally filed as 4 CSR 233-2.010. Original rule filed Dec. 31, 1997, effective July 30, 1998. Amended: Filed May 22, 2001, effective Nov. 30, 2001. Moved to 20 CSR 2233-2.010, effective Aug. 28, 2006. Amended: Filed Nov. 15, 2007, effective May 30, 2008. \*Original authority: 337.715, RSMo 1995, amended 2004, 2007 and 337.727, RSMo 1995.*

### **Discussion Questions**

- 1. Do the core areas of study generally reflect COAMFTE standards?**
- 2. Do any of the core area definitions require amended language? If so, identify core area(s)?**
- 3. In the core area Ethics and Professional Studies, what does a course of study require?**
  - a) Focus on legal/ethical issues of marital and family therapy practice;**
  - b) Study of the AAMFT Code of Ethics; and**
  - c) Legal and ethical overview of best practices for mental health practitioners such as counselors, psychologists, and social workers.**

## **TOPIC 2 – LICENSURE SUPERVISION**

### **20 CSR 2233-2.020 Supervised Marital and Family Work Experience**

1. For the purpose of these rules, direct client contact shall be defined as face-to-face interaction between the client and PLMFT or S-MFT in the same room; and

(C) A minimum of twenty-four (24) calendar months of supervised experience. The PLMFT or S-MFT must obtain at least fifteen (15) hours of supervised experience within a calendar month in order for the experience to be considered by the state committee and must be in compliance with 20 CSR 2233-2.020(1), (2), (4), or (5) or (6), (7), and (8); and

(D) A minimum of two (2) hours every two (2) weeks or one (1) hour every week of individual face-to-face supervision with the registered supervisor. For the purpose of this regulation an hour of individual face-to-face supervision shall be defined as fifty (50) continuous minutes and two (2) hours shall be defined as no less than one hundred (100) continuous minutes with the registered supervisor and supervised marital and family therapist or provisional licensed marital and family therapist in the same physical space.

1. At least half of the supervision shall be individual face-to-face supervision which may consist of no more than two (2) PLMFTs or S-MFTs meeting with the registered supervisor.

2. The remaining supervision may be group supervision. For the purpose of this rule, group supervision may consist of at least three (3) and no more than six (6) PLMFTs or S-MFTs or combination thereof.

3. The PLMFT or S-MFT must complete a minimum of two hundred (200) hours of supervision, at least half of which one hundred (100) hours must be in individual face-to-face supervision.

4. The use of electronic communication is not acceptable for meeting face-to-face supervision requirements of this rule unless the communication is verbally and visually interactive between the supervisor and PLMFT or S-MFT; and

(E) The services provided by a PLMFT or S-MFT shall be performed under the registered supervisor's full order, control, oversight, and guidance. The PLMFT or S-MFT shall remain under the supervision until licensed as a marital and family therapist.

### **Discussion Questions**

- 1. Is face-to-face supervision necessary to adequately train SMFTs and PLMFTs?**
- 2. Does the availability and sophistication of today's technology make the face to face requirements of this rule no longer necessary?**
- 3. Is a combination of face to face and distance supervision practical? Enforceable? Realistic?**
- 4. Is there scholarly research addressing the topic of face to face supervision as part of the post degree licensure experience?  
During a practicum/internship within a master's or doctoral program, are supervisory meetings with faculty or site supervisor always face to face?**