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August 12, 2014

Dear Wisconsin Institution of Higher Education Representative;

The intention of this letter is to highlight an important rule revision promulgated by the Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling and Social Work Examining Board. Specifically, this rule revision outlines changes to what constitutes an academic program equivalent to a master's degree in professional counseling in the state of Wisconsin (14.01). For your convenience, the specific revisions may be reviewed by following this direct link to MPSW 14:

http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/mpsw/14/01

Please note that the requirement for academic programs has increased from 42-semester hours to 60-semester hours. In addition, there are more specific course requirements that must be fulfilled as a component of this 60-hour requirement. Bear in mind that the effective date for applicants to meet the requirements outlined in MPSW 14.01 is September 1, 2018. This timeline is put in place to allow programs an opportunity to properly transition their curricula in order to fulfill these requirements.

The Professional Counselor Section will have a program pre-approval mechanism in place starting in January 2015 for programs that wish to seek a pre-approval status prior to September 1, 2018. Programs are strongly encouraged to establish a "pre-approval" status with the Professional Counselor Section as this will assist greatly in streamlining the licensure process for applicants.

All programs must meet the MPSW14.01 revisions by this 2018 date or run the risk of graduates from their programs not being able to meet proper criteria for counseling licensure in Wisconsin. **To be clear, when the Professional Counselor Section meets to review applications for Professional Counselor licensure at their fall 2018 meeting, applicants will need to have 60-hours of counseling course credit reflected on their graduate transcripts that properly aligns with requirements outlined in MPSW 14.01.** This means that it is in the best interest of graduate programs to thoroughly, and in a timely manner, review this rule change and align their programs accordingly.

As a section, we look forward to working with your programs and answering questions you might have during this transition period.

Sincerely,

Charles V. Lindsey
Chair, DSPS Professional Counselor Section