

**STATE OF WISCONSIN  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS EXAMINING BOARD**

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**IN THE MATTER OF RULEMAKING :  
PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE : REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS EXAMINING : CLEARINGHOUSE RULE 20 - 045  
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:**

This rule project makes several updates to chs. FD 1 and FD 4 in light of 2019 Wisconsin Act 137. FD 1 regarding funeral director and apprentice credentialing are revised to reflect that 24 semester credits of college are now required for licensure instead of 2 academic years. No changes are made to the required course subject matter. The requirement for certification as an apprentice that the 16-hour certification course be taken regardless of whether the applicant has completed mortuary school, is also removed. The certification class will no longer be required for apprenticeship applicants who have already completed mortuary school.

Finally, the continuing education requirements in FD 4 are revised to reflect that in the first biennium following licensure as a funeral director, the licensee will be required to complete 4 hours of continuing education that the board has deemed necessary to prepare a new licensee for practice.

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

The Board held a public hearing on November 17, 2020. The Board did not receive any written or verbal comments.

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

The Funeral Directors Examining Board accepts all Clearinghouse Recommendations.

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

N/A

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS EXAMINING BOARD

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IN THE MATTER OF RULEMAKING	:	PROPOSED ORDER OF THE
PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE	:	FUNERAL DIRECTORS
FUNERAL DIRECTORS	:	EXAMINING BOARD
EXAMINING BOARD	:	ADOPTING RULES
	:	(CLEARINGHOUSE RULE 20 - 045)

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PROPOSED ORDER

An order of the Funeral Directors Examining Board to repeal FD 1.04 (2); to amend FD 1.02 (3) and (4), 1.04 (title), (intro.), and (1), 1.05 and 1.055; to repeal and recreate FD 4.03 (1); and to create FD 4.03 (1m), relating to licensure and continuing education requirements for funeral directors and funeral director apprentices.

Analysis prepared by the Department of Safety and Professional Services.

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ANALYSIS

**Statutes interpreted:** Sections 445.045 (1), 445.07, and 445.095 (1), Stats.

**Statutory authority:** Sections 15.08 (5) (b), 227.11 (2) (a), 445.03 (2) (a), and 445.07 (3), Stats.

**Explanation of agency authority:**

Section 15.08 (5) (b), Stats. provides “[e]ach examining board...Shall promulgate rules for its own guidance and for the guidance of the trade or profession to which it pertains and define and enforce professional conduct and unethical practices not inconsistent with the law relating to the particular trade or profession.”

Section 227.11 (2) (a), Stats. provides “[e]ach agency may promulgate rules interpreting the provisions of any statute enforced or administered by the agency, if the agency considers it necessary to effectuate the purpose of the statute.”

Section 445.03 (2) (a), Stats. authorizes the board to “[m]ake and enforce rules...for the examination and licensing of funeral directors and the registration of apprentices.”

Section 445.07 (3), Stats. authorizes the board to make rules implementing the continuing education requirements in s. 445.07, Stats.

**Related statute or rule:** None.

**Plain language analysis:**

This rule project makes several updates to chs. FD 1 and FD 4 in light of 2019 Wisconsin Act 137. FD 1 regarding funeral director and apprentice credentialing are revised to reflect that 24 semester credits of college are now required for licensure instead of 2 academic years. No changes are made to the required course subject matter. The requirement for certification as an apprentice that the 16-hour certification course be taken regardless of whether the applicant has completed mortuary school, is also removed. The certification class will no longer be required for apprenticeship applicants who have already completed mortuary school.

Finally, the continuing education requirements in FD 4 are revised to reflect that in the first biennium following licensure as a funeral director, the licensee will be required to complete 4 hours of continuing education that the board has deemed necessary to prepare a new licensee for practice.

**Summary of, and comparison with, existing or proposed federal regulation:** None.

**Summary of public comments received on statement of scope and a description of how and to what extent those comments and feedback were taken into account in drafting the proposed rule:** N/A.

**Comparison with rules in adjacent states:**

**Illinois:** Illinois provides for a funeral director's license and a funeral director and embalming license. The funeral director only license requires 12 continuing education credits per renewal period, and the funeral director and embalming license requires 24 credits. Licensees are not required to meet the continuing education requirement during the renewal period immediately following their initial licensure (Ill. Admin. Code § 1250.220 (a)).

Illinois requires funeral director applicants to complete an internship. There is not a certification course required prior to beginning the internship. At minimum, however, must have completed at least 30 semester or 45 quarter college credit hours along with the completion of a 12 month mortuary science program (Ill. Admin Code § 1250.120 (a)).

**Iowa:** Iowa code requires a funeral director licensee to complete at least 24 continuing education credits per renewal period. Licensees are not required to complete continuing education during the first renewal period immediately following their licensure (645 IA Admin. Code § 102.2 (1)).

Iowa requires funeral director applicants to complete a one-year internship (645 IA Admin. Code § 101.3 (1)). The internship must be completed after the education and examination requirements for funeral director licensure are met. This includes a minimum of 60 credits from an accredited college or university, not including any credits

for technical mortuary science instruction, completion of a mortuary science program, and at least a one credit course in Iowa law and administrative rules relevant to the practice of funeral directing (645 IA Admin. Code § 101.2 (1)).

**Michigan:** Michigan requires funeral director license candidates to complete a one-year resident trainee program under the supervision of a licensee, graduate from a 3-year mortuary science course at an accredited school, college, or university, pass an examination, and be a person of good moral character (MCL § 339.1806 (1)). A resident trainee license can be issued to an individual who has a high school diploma and is of good moral character (MCL § 339.1808 (1)). It does not appear that any particular order is required in completing the requirements for licensure as a funeral director, nor does Michigan appear to require continuing education for licensees.

**Minnesota:** Minnesota requires applicants for a funeral director license to first complete the education requirement for licensure, which is at a minimum an aggregation of college credits substantially equivalent to a bachelor's degree plus a course of study in mortuary science. Once the education requirement is complete the applicant must pass the required examination. Finally, a 2,080 hour internship is required to be completed within 3 years. It does not appear that continuing education is required to renew a funeral director license.

**Summary of factual data and analytical methodologies:**

The board must revise its rules to match the statutory requirements enacted by 2019 Wisconsin Act 137. Failure to do so would result in the rules remaining inconsistent with state statute and result in confusion to stakeholders as to what the law is.

**Analysis and supporting documents used to determine effect on small business or in preparation of economic impact analysis:**

The rule was posted for 14 days on the department website to solicit economic impact comments.

**Fiscal Estimate and Economic Impact Analysis:**

The Fiscal Estimate and Economic Impact Analysis is attached.

**Effect on small business:**

The rules were posted for 14 days on the department website to solicit economic impact comments.

**Agency contact person:**

Kevyn Radcliffe, Administrative Rules Coordinator, Department of Safety and Professional Services, Division of Policy Development, 4822 Madison Yards Way, P.O.

Box 8366, Madison, Wisconsin 53708; telephone 608-266-0717; email at DSPSAdminRules@wisconsin.gov.

**Place where comments are to be submitted and deadline for submission:**

Comments may be submitted to Kevyn Radcliffe, Administrative Rules Coordinator, Department of Safety and Professional Services, Division of Policy Development, 4822 Madison Yards Way, P.O. Box 8366, Madison, WI 53708-8366, or by email to DSPSAdminRules@wisconsin.gov.

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TEXT OF RULE

SECTION 1. FD 1.02 (3) and (4) are amended to read:

**FD 1.02 (3)** Evidence of completion of ~~2 academic years~~ at least 24 semester credits of instruction in a recognized college or university meeting the requirements of s. FD 1.04.

**(4)** Evidence of completion of 9 months or more instruction in a prescribed course in mortuary science meeting the requirements of s. FD 1.05 ~~after having completed a 16-hour certification class approved by the board.~~

SECTION 2. FD 1.04 (title), (intro.) and (1) are amended to read:

**FD 1.04 ~~Two academic years of~~ College instruction.** To meet the ~~requirements~~ requirement of 24 ~~academic years~~ semester credits of instruction specified in s. 445.045 (1) (d), Stats., an applicant shall submit to the board an official transcript of courses from a regionally accredited college showing that the applicant has completed ~~a course of study with 60~~ at least 24 semester credit hours in the following areas:

**(1)** English or Communication Skills.

SECTION 3. FD 1.04 (2) is repealed.

SECTION 4. FD 1.05 and 1.055, are amended to read:

**FD 1.05** ~~After completing a 16-hour certification class approved by the board, the following shall be accepted as compliance with s. 445.045 (1) (e), Stats. The candidate must~~ shall have satisfactorily completed 9 months or more instruction in a prescribed course in mortuary science, either before or after completing the 1 year apprenticeship required under s. 445.095, Stats., offered by an educational institution accredited by the American board of funeral service education or otherwise deemed to be equivalent by the funeral directors examining board.

**FD 1.055** ~~In addition to s. FD 1.05~~ Prior to beginning the 1 year apprenticeship required under s. 445.095, Stats., the applicant shall provide evidence of completion of an in-

person 16-hour certification class approved by the board, unless the applicant has already completed the course in mortuary science requirement in s. FD 1.05, in which case the certification course is not required.

SECTION 5. FD 4.03 (1) is repealed and recreated to read:

**FD 4.03 (1)** For the renewal of a license that expires on the first renewal date after the date on which the examining board initially granted the license, completion of 4 credit hours of continuing education subsequent to the date the applicant was granted the initial license is required. The required 4 credit hours of continuing education may include instruction in any of the following topics that the board has determined may prepare a new licensee for practice as a funeral director:

- (a) Embalming.
- (b) Life insurance.
- (c) Hospitality.
- (d) Celebrant training.
- (e) Crematory operation.
- (f) Public speaking.
- (g) Small business management.
- (h) Marketing, including the use of graphic design and social media.

SECTION 6. FD 4.03 (1m) is created to read:

**FD 4.03 (1m)** Every funeral director, except as described in sub. (1) and s. FD 4.05, shall complete at least 15 hours of approved continuing education programs in each biennial registration period, as specified under s. 445.06, Stats.

SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. The rules adopted in this order shall take effect on the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin Administrative Register, pursuant to s. 227.22 (2) (intro.), Stats.

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(END OF TEXT OF RULE)  
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This Proposed Order of the Funeral Director Examining Board is approved for submission to the Governor and Legislature.

Dated 11/30/2020

Agency Marc A. Gervase  
Chairperson  
Funeral Director Examining Board

## ADMINISTRATIVE RULES Fiscal Estimate & Economic Impact Analysis

<b>1. Type of Estimate and Analysis</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original <input type="checkbox"/> Updated <input type="checkbox"/> Corrected	<b>2. Date</b> September 14, 2020
<b>3. Administrative Rule Chapter, Title and Number (and Clearinghouse Number if applicable)</b> FD 1 and 4	
<b>4. Subject</b> Licensure and continuing education requirements for funeral directors and funeral director apprentices	
<b>5. Fund Sources Affected</b> <input type="checkbox"/> GPR <input type="checkbox"/> FED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEG-S	<b>6. Chapter 20, Stats. Appropriations Affected</b> 20.165(1)(g)
<b>7. Fiscal Effect of Implementing the Rule</b> <input type="checkbox"/> No Fiscal Effect <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Could Absorb Within Agency's Budget	
<b>8. The Rule Will Impact the Following (Check All That Apply)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> State's Economy <input type="checkbox"/> Specific Businesses/Sectors <input type="checkbox"/> Local Government Units <input type="checkbox"/> Public Utility Rate Payers <input type="checkbox"/> Small Businesses <b>(if checked, complete Attachment A)</b>	
<b>9. Estimate of Implementation and Compliance to Businesses, Local Governmental Units and Individuals, per s. 227.137(3)(b)(1).</b> \$0	
<b>10. Would Implementation and Compliance Costs Businesses, Local Governmental Units and Individuals Be \$10 Million or more Over Any 2-year Period, per s. 227.137(3)(b)(2)?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
<b>11. Policy Problem Addressed by the Rule</b> This rule project makes several updates to chs. FD 1 and FD 4 in light of 2019 Wisconsin Act 137. FD 1 regarding funeral director and apprentice credentialing are revised to reflect that 24 semester credits of college are now required for licensure instead of 2 academic years. No changes are made to the required course subject matter. The requirement for certification as an apprentice that the 16-hour certification course be taken regardless of whether the applicant has completed mortuary school, is also removed. The certification class will no longer be required for apprenticeship applicants who have already completed mortuary school.  Finally, the continuing education requirements in FD 4 are revised to reflect that in the first biennium following licensure as a funeral director, the licensee will be required to complete 4 hours of continuing education that the board has deemed necessary to prepare a new licensee for practice.	
<b>12. Summary of the Businesses, Business Sectors, Associations Representing Business, Local Governmental Units, and Individuals that may be Affected by the Proposed Rule that were Contacted for Comments.</b> None.	
<b>13. Identify the Local Governmental Units that Participated in the Development of this EIA.</b> None.	
<b>14. Summary of Rule's Economic and Fiscal Impact on Specific Businesses, Business Sectors, Public Utility Rate Payers, Local Governmental Units and the State's Economy as a Whole (Include Implementation and Compliance Costs Expected to be Incurred)</b> None.	
<b>15. Benefits of Implementing the Rule and Alternative(s) to Implementing the Rule</b> The benefit of implementing the rule is to update the FD chapters to bring them into line with the recent statutory changes enacted by 2019 Wisconsin Act 137. The alternative to implementing the rule would be to not promulgate new continuing education requirements for newly licensed funeral directors, and to leave the rules otherwise inconsistent with	



## ADMINISTRATIVE RULES Fiscal Estimate & Economic Impact Analysis

state statutes. This would result in a lack of clarity for stakeholders as to what is required to obtain and maintain a funeral director license in this state.

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16. Long Range Implications of Implementing the Rule

The long range implications of implementing the rule are to ensure that the FD rules chapters are in alignment with state statute.

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17. Compare With Approaches Being Used by Federal Government

None.

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18. Compare With Approaches Being Used by Neighboring States (Illinois, Iowa, Michigan and Minnesota)

Illinois: Illinois provides for a funeral director's license and a funeral director and embalming license. The funeral director only license requires 12 continuing education credits per renewal period, and the funeral director and embalming license requires 24 credits. Licensees are not required to meet the continuing education requirement during the renewal period immediately following their initial licensure (Ill. Admin. Code § 1250.220 (a)).

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19. Contact Name

Jon Derenne, Administrative Rules Coordinator

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20. Contact Phone Number

(608) 266-0955

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This document can be made available in alternate formats to individuals with disabilities upon request.

**ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**  
**Fiscal Estimate & Economic Impact Analysis**

**ATTACHMENT A**

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1. Summary of Rule's Economic and Fiscal Impact on Small Businesses (Separately for each Small Business Sector, Include Implementation and Compliance Costs Expected to be Incurred)

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2. Summary of the data sources used to measure the Rule's impact on Small Businesses

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3. Did the agency consider the following methods to reduce the impact of the Rule on Small Businesses?

- Less Stringent Compliance or Reporting Requirements
  - Less Stringent Schedules or Deadlines for Compliance or Reporting
  - Consolidation or Simplification of Reporting Requirements
  - Establishment of performance standards in lieu of Design or Operational Standards
  - Exemption of Small Businesses from some or all requirements
  - Other, describe:
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4. Describe the methods incorporated into the Rule that will reduce its impact on Small Businesses

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5. Describe the Rule's Enforcement Provisions

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6. Did the Agency prepare a Cost Benefit Analysis (if Yes, attach to form)

- Yes    No
-