

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING



Wisconsin Department of Regulation & Licensing Access to the Public Records of the Reports of Decisions

This Reports of Decisions document was retrieved from the Wisconsin Department of Regulation & Licensing website. These records are open to public view under Wisconsin's Open Records law, sections 19.31-19.39 Wisconsin Statutes.

Please read this agreement prior to viewing the Decision:

- The Reports of Decisions is designed to contain copies of all orders issued by credentialing authorities within the Department of Regulation and Licensing from November, 1998 to the present. In addition, many but not all orders for the time period between 1977 and November, 1998 are posted. Not all orders issued by a credentialing authority constitute a formal disciplinary action.
- Reports of Decisions contains information as it exists at a specific point in time in the Department of Regulation and Licensing data base. Because this data base changes constantly, the Department is not responsible for subsequent entries that update, correct or delete data. The Department is not responsible for notifying prior requesters of updates, modifications, corrections or deletions. All users have the responsibility to determine whether information obtained from this site is still accurate, current and complete.
- There may be discrepancies between the online copies and the original document. Original documents should be consulted as the definitive representation of the order's content. Copies of original orders may be obtained by mailing requests to the Department of Regulation and Licensing, PO Box 8935, Madison, WI 53708-8935. The Department charges copying fees. *All requests must cite the case number, the date of the order, and respondent's name as it appears on the order.*
- Reported decisions may have an appeal pending, and discipline may be stayed during the appeal. Information about the current status of a credential issued by the Department of Regulation and Licensing is shown on the Department's Web Site under "License Lookup." The status of an appeal may be found on court access websites at: <http://ccap.courts.state.wi.us/InternetCourtAccess> and <http://www.courts.state.wi.us/wscca>.
- Records not open to public inspection by statute are not contained on this website.

By viewing this document, you have read the above and agree to the use of the Reports of Decisions subject to the above terms, and that you understand the limitations of this on-line database.

Correcting information on the DRL website: An individual who believes that information on the website is inaccurate may contact the webmaster at web@drl.state.wi.gov

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING SECTION OF THE MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY,
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING, AND SOCIAL WORK EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE	:
APPLICATION OF	:
	:
MELANIE L. CREGER,	:
APPLICANT	:

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

The parties in this matter under § 227.44, Wis. Stats. and s. RL 1.04, Wis. Admin. Code, and for purposes of review under § 227.53, Wis. Stats., are:

Melanie L. Creger
1764 Burgoyne Court #52
De Pere, WI 54115

Professional Counseling Section
1400 East Washington Avenue
Madison, WI 53703

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Melanie L. Creger filed an application for a professional counselor license on or about December 7, 2004. The Professional Counselor Section reviewed her application at its meeting on January 30, 2007, and denied her request for a license. A Notice of Denial was sent to Ms. Creger on or about February 6, 2007. Ms. Creger subsequently requested a hearing on her denial.

A hearing in the above-captioned matter was held on April 30, 2007, before the Professional Counseling Section of the Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling, and Social Work Examining Board. Ms. Creger appeared in person, *pro se*.

The Professional Counseling Section of the Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling, and Social Work Examining Board, having held a hearing on the application for a professional counselor license for Melanie L. Creger and having considered the entire record in this matter, makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Melanie L. Creger applied for a professional counselor license on or about December 7, 2004.
2. One of the requirements in Wisconsin for both the professional counselor training license and professional counselor license is the completion of a master's or doctoral degree in professional counseling. Having an equivalent academic program to professional counseling is also permitted. Equivalent programs must include, among other things, multiple courses in various counseling subjects.
3. Ms. Creger has not successfully completed the required coursework, namely the multiple three-credit academic courses in at least six out of eight topic areas.
4. Under ss. 457.12 and 457.13, Wis. Stats., applicants for a professional counselor license must complete 3000 hours of supervised professional counseling practice while holding a professional counselor training license.
5. Ms. Creger has never held a professional counseling training license in Wisconsin. She therefore has no post-graduate professional counseling practice hours which are essential for obtaining a professional counselor license.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Professional Counseling Section of the Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling, and Social Work Examining Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to §§ 15.405 (7c) (c) and 457.12, Wis. Stats.
2. Ms. Creger, by not having completed the requirements as set forth in §§ 457.12 and 457.13, Wis. Stats., has not met the criteria for a professional counselor license.

ORDER

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the application of Melanie L. Creger for a professional counselor license is **DENIED**.

OPINION

Section 457.12, Wis. Stats., sets forth the criteria for licensure as a professional counselor in Wisconsin. Among the requirements for licensure as found in s. 457.10 (2) (b), Wis. Stats., is that an applicant must have either received a master's or doctorate degree in professional counseling or its equivalent from a program approved by the Professional Counseling Section (Section). An academic program is the equivalent of a master's degree in professional counseling if it meets the criteria set forth in s. MPSW 14.01, Wis. Admin. Code, including, in part, at least one course of at least three (3) semester hours or four (4) quarter hours academic credit in six defined subject areas, with a minimum of 42 semester hours or 63 quarter hours of academic credit in counseling. Additionally, under s. RL 1.08 (4), Wis. Admin. Code, an applicant has the burden of proof to show the credentialing authority, in this case, the Professional Counseling Section, that he has met the eligibility requirements for the credential.

Ms. Creger has failed to meet her burden. One of the requirements for obtaining either the professional counselor training certificate or a professional counselor license is the completion of a master's or doctoral degree in professional counseling or an acceptable equivalent program. Ms. Creger has not completed the essential coursework in order to satisfy the equivalency requirements, including, for instance, two, three-credit courses in the following areas: lifestyle and career development, group dynamics processing and counseling, and professional counseling orientation.

Additionally, under s. RL 1.08 (4), Wis. Admin. Code, an applicant has the burden of proof to show the credentialing authority, in this case, the Professional Counseling Section, that she has met the eligibility requirements for the credential. Applicants for a professional counseling license must demonstrate that they have completed the required 3000 hours of post-graduate supervised practice. Ms. Creger has not completed the essential coursework in order to satisfy the equivalency

requirements, nor has she completed the supervised practice requirement.

In reviewing Ms. Creger's application again, the Section determined that she has not completed the essential coursework in order to satisfy the equivalency requirements, nor has she completed the supervised practice requirement while holding a professional training license. As a result, she has not met the requirements for the professional license, and her application for a professional counselor license has therefore been denied.

APPEAL INFORMATION

The applicant's right to request rehearing and for judicial review are set forth in the enclosed "Notice of Appeal Information".

Dated this 1st day of May, 2007, at Madison, Wisconsin.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING SECTION

Susan Putra, P.C.
Chairperson