

251 CMR: BOARD OF REGISTRATION OF PSYCHOLOGISTS

251 CMR 4.00: CONTINUING EDUCATION

Section

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4.01: Scope, Purpose and Regulatory Authority

(1) The purpose of continuing education is to assure high standards for the practice of psychology by requiring licensees to participate in on-going educational activities. Through these experiences, licensees may increase their competence and enhance the knowledge obtained during prior education and training.

(2) The Board promulgates 251 CMR 4.00 pursuant to M.G.L. c. 13, § 79 and M.G.L. c. 112, § 127.

4.02: Definitions

Board: The Board of Registration of Psychologists.

Board-recognized Entities: The American Psychological Association, recognized educational institutions, as defined in M.G.L. c. 112, § 118, and such other entities that the Board designates as appropriate.

Continuing Education Activities: Continuing education activities consist of:

- (a) formal learning programs with specific learning objectives sponsored by Board-recognized entities; and
- (b) publication of books, chapters of books, and/or articles in refereed journals, relevant to the science or practice of psychology.

Continuing Education Hour: The unit of measurement for an organized learning experience lasting 60 consecutive minutes.

4.03: Continuing Education Requirements

(1) All licensees must comply with the requirements of 251 CMR 4.00 to renew their licenses.

(2) All licensees are required, as a condition of license renewal, to complete a minimum of 20 hours of continuing education activities per licensure/renewal period (every two years).

(3) Continuing education activities in the form of publication of books, chapters of books, and/or articles in refereed journals, relevant to the science or practice of psychology may be substituted for not more than ten of the total 20 hours of continuing education activities required per licensure/renewal period.

4.04: Evaluation and Verification of Continuing Education Hours and Programs

(1) At the time of renewal, each licensee will be required to submit a signed, notarized statement, on a form provided by the Board, attesting to completion of the continuing education requirements set forth in 251 CMR 4.00.

(2) All continuing education activities required for licensure renewal must be clearly psychological in content and/or directly relevant to the science or practice of psychology.

(3) For each continuing education hour earned by participation in formal learning programs, the licensee must be able to document the following information:

- (a) the title of the program;
- (b) the number of hours spent in the program;

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- (c) the name of the Board-recognized entity which sponsored the program; and
- (d) the date the program was given.

(4) For each continuing education activity hour earned by publication of books, chapters of books, and/or articles in refereed journals, the licensee must be able to document the following information:

- (a) the title of the book, chapter or article and, in the case of a chapter or article, the title of the book or name of the journal in which it appears;
- (b) the date of publication; and
- (c) the names of any co-authors.

The Board may require the licensee to provide a copy of the book, chapter or article that he/she is relying on as a continuing education activity.

(5) The Board may request the verification enumerated in 251 CMR 4.04(2) and (3) for a period not to exceed two prior licensure/renewal periods.

(6) Board-recognized entities which sponsor approved continuing education programs will be expected to maintain in their records the names of all continuing education attendees and the number of hours awarded for attendance at each program.

(7) Failure to comply with the continuing education requirements of 251 CMR 4.00 will result in the non-renewal of the license.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

251 CMR 4.00: M.G.L. c. 13, § 79; c. 112, § 127.