

256 CMR: BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN VETERINARY MEDICINE

256 CMR 9.00: CONTINUING EDUCATION

Section

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9.01: Continuing Education Requirements

(1) Licensed Veterinarians are required, as a condition of license renewal, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112, § 55, to complete a minimum of 15 units of continuing education activities during the prior calendar year. Not more than six hours shall be acquired through non-interactive instruction.

(2) A unit of continuing education shall be a minimum of 50 minutes of organized learning experience. The Board, in its discretion, may approve other programs of continued professional competence that contribute to a licensee's professional growth.

(3) Board approved continuing education activities shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) Successful completion of an educational program, course, seminar, or workshop, sponsored by an approved organization, as described in 256 CMR 9.03(2).

(b) Authorship of published books, chapters of published books, articles in refereed journals, research projects, and/or other such publications approved by the Board related to the science or practice of veterinary medicine. A maximum of three units may be credited for each book chapter, article, or project.

(c) Instruction or presentation of an academic course workshop poster session, or seminar for the first time. Credit for two units of continuing education will be given for each unit taught or presented.

(d) Successful completion of an academic course related to contemporary practice and offered by an approved school of Veterinary Medicine. Each unit of continuing education shall be equivalent to a minimum of 50 minutes of organized learning experience.

(e) Successful completion of a residency training program in the process of board certification in an AVMA specialty board or college, or successful completion of an organized internship with a Board approved provider.

9.02: Verification and Approval of Licensee's Continuing Education Activities

(1) The licensee shall maintain adequate documentation of continuing education activities, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(a) For each continuing education unit earned by participation in a continuing education program, a licensee must be able to provide documentation of the following:

1. the title of the program or course;
2. the number of hours spent in the program or course;
3. the name of the Board recognized entity or the academic institution that sponsored the program or course; and
4. the date(s) and location that the program or course was given.

(b) For each continuing education activity unit earned from publication, the Board may require the licensee to provide a copy of the book, chapter, research project or article. The licensee must be able to provide complete bibliographic documentation including: the date of publication; the title of the book, chapter, research project or article and, in the case of a

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chapter or article, the title of the book or name of the journal in which it appears.

(c) For each continuing education activity unit earned by the teaching or presentation of courses, workshops, poster sessions or seminars, the licensee must be able to document the following information:

1. the title of the course or poster session;
2. the date(s) of participation;
3. the institution or sponsoring agency; and
4. the number of hours the licensee spent teaching or presenting.

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(d) For each academic course completed, the licensee must be able to provide a transcript showing successful course completion, as indicated by a passing grade or formal course-audit status.

(2) The Board may conduct random surveys for compliance of the documentation of any licensee's continuing education. Upon request, the licensee shall provide the documentation described in 256 CMR 9.02(1)(b). Failure to provide required documentation or to complete the continuing education requirements for renewal may result in non-renewal of a license or other disciplinary action by the Board.

9.03: Verification and Approval of Providers of Continuing Education Programs and Activities

(1) For a program to be eligible for approval for continuing education hours, it shall contribute to the growth of an applicant in professional competence.

(2) Course work meeting the requirements of 256 CMR 9.03(1) and endorsed or sponsored by the following organizations shall be deemed approved for continuing education hours:

- (a) Registry of Approved Continuing Education (RACE);
- (b) Boards of Veterinary Medicine licensure of other states;
- (c) Courses offered by governmental agencies;
- (d) Academic courses or continuing education programs offered by an AVMA approved school of Veterinary Medicine; and,
- (e) Continuing education programs offered by the AVMA, any state veterinary medical association, or other organizations so designated by the Board.

9.04: Waivers of Continuing Education Requirements

The Board may, at its discretion, fully waive or extend the deadline of the continuing education requirements for any licensee who, for reasons of health, disability, out of state military service, or undue hardship cannot meet the requirements. Licensees shall submit such requests to the Board in writing.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

256 CMR 9.00: M.G.L. c. 112, § 55.