

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
COMMITTEE ON ACUPUNCTURE

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<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/borim/>

**COMMITTEE ON ACUPUNCTURE REVIEW
OF CONTINUING ACUPUNCTURE EDUCATION COURSES**

Continuing Education Requirement (CAE) 243 CMR 5.10)

As a condition of renewal, a full licensee is required to complete 30 hours of continuing acupuncture Education (CAE) in a Committee on Acupuncture (COA) approved acupuncture program or course or other COA-approved activity (this may include courses in western medicine or other healing arts). These hours must be completed during each 2-year licensure renewal period that begins on the date that a license is issued or renewed by the COA and ends on the following renewal date. A minimum of 15 hours must be spent in COA-approved courses directly related to acupuncture.

A licensee who is certified by the COA to employ herbs in the practice of acupuncture must complete 30 hours of CAE per renewal cycle and at least 10 hours of those 30 hours must be directly related to Herbology and 10 hours directly related to acupuncture. The remaining 5 hours may be for courses indirectly related to acupuncture or herbology.

Organizations seeking to become COA-approved CAE providers are directed to contact NCCAOM and seek NCCAOM certification as CAE providers. The COA recognizes NCCAOM-certified CAE providers as approved CAE providers. **The COA no longer reviews courses for credit, with the exception of credit for publication of peer-reviewed research articles. For more information, please refer to COA Policy Statement 2012-01.**

COA-Approved Organizations and CAE Courses

CAE courses (other than home study courses) **sponsored** by the following organizations are automatically approved by the COA in either the “directly related to” or the “indirectly related to” categories. [The COA recommends that licensees contact one of organizations listed below for information relating to accreditation of courses that are not automatically approved in connection with the licensing process.]

1. COA-approved acupuncture schools
2. The Acupuncture Practitioners Association of Massachusetts (APA)
3. The Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Society of Massachusetts (AOMSM)
4. The American Assoc. of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (AAAOM)
5. The American Medical Association (AMA)
6. The American Red Cross, the American Heart Assoc., etc.
7. The Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS)
8. The National Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine Alliance (NAOMA)

9. The National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM)
10. The Oriental Traditional Medical Association (OTMA)
11. The MA Chinese Society of Traditional Chinese Medicine

CAE courses (other than home study courses) **approved** by other state acupuncture licensing boards for Continuing Acupuncture and/or Medical Education are automatically approved by the COA in either the “directly related to” or the “indirectly related to” categories.

CAE courses (other than home study courses) **approved** by other state health licensing boards (such as registered nurses, physical therapists, social workers, etc.) are automatically approved by the COA in the “indirectly related to” category.

NOTE: The CAE certificate of attendance that is given to the participant should contain the following information:

- Name of the above mentioned pre-approved sponsor of the course, workshop or seminar
- Name of the participant
- Date(s) of attendance (month, day and year)
- Hour(s) attended.

A note on advertising courses. The COA has determined that advertising by licensees of titles or degrees such as "O.M.D.", "Doctor of Acupuncture", "M.A. Acupuncture", "Ph.D. Acupuncture", "Doctor," and "Lic.Ac." (unless the person is licensed in a particular state) is misleading to the public. The COA requests that sponsors of courses refrain from advertising the credentials of course instructors in a way that is contrary to Massachusetts's public policy.

Please note that a licensee who teaches a **COA-approved** CAE course can earn up to 12 credits per renewal period (up to 6 per year) for teaching this **COA-approved** CAE course as long as it is teaching that is outside his/her normal work environment. The credits will be granted only for the actual instruction time, and not for preparation time.

If you have any questions please contact the Licensing Division at (781) 876-8210.

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