COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN MEDICINE

COMMITTEE ON ACUPUNCTURE

POLICY 25-03

**REVIEW OF CONTINUING ACUPUNCTURE EDUCATION COURSES**

June 20, 2025

**Continuing Acupuncture Education Requirements at 243 CMR 5.10**

As a condition of renewal, a full acupuncture 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 that are directly related to acupuncture.

**Requirements for Chinese Herbal Therapy Distinction**

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.

**CAE Providers, Courses and Trainings**

Organizations and individuals seeking to become COA-approved CAE providers are directed to contact NCCAOM (nccaom.org) and seek NCCAOM certification as a CAE provider. The COA recognizes NCCAOM-certified CAE providers as approved COA providers. The COA does not review courses for credit, with two exceptions. The COA has a separate policy determining the credit for publication of peer-reviewed research articles. (For more information, please refer to COA Policy Statement 2012-01.) Home study courses are not permitted unless explicitly approved by the COA at a regular meeting.

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. 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.

The following courses and providers are approved by the COA:

**For Acupuncturists**

ACAHM or COA-approved acupuncture schools, including New England School of Acupuncture, <https://www.mcphs.edu/academics/schools/new-england-school-of-acupuncture>

Acupuncture Society of Massachusetts, <https://AcuSocietyMA.org>

The National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM), <https://nccaom.org>

American Academy of Medical Acupuncture, <https://medicalacupuncture.org>

Acupuncturists Without Borders, <https://acuwithoutborders.org>

American Society of Acupuncturists (ASA), <https://asacu.org>

Society for Acupuncture Research, <https://acupunctureresearch.org>

Society for Integrative Oncology, <https://integrativeonc.org>

**For Acupuncture Detoxification Specialists**

National Acupuncture for Detoxification Assn., <https://acudetox.com>

Any COA-approved courses or trainings for Acupuncture Detoxification Specialists

**For First Aid, CPR and AED**

The American Red Cross, [https://www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org/)

The American Heart Association, <https://www.heart.org>

**For Physician Acupuncturists**

American Medical Association (AMA), <https://www.ama-assn.org>

The Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS), [www.massmed.org](http://www.massmed.org)

American Academy of Medical Acupuncture, <https://medicalacupuncture.org>

Any BORIM-approved course or training relating to acupuncture

**What Should Be in the CAE Certificates of Attendance?**

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

 Name and address of the Sponsor of the course, workshop or seminar

 Name and address of the participant

 Date(s) of attendance (month, day and year)

 Hour(s) attended or credit awarded

**A Note on Advertising Courses**.

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 see 243 CMR 5.09(1)(a)-(g).

**Teachers and Mentors**

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) 876-8200.

Individuals who volunteer to be mentors to other acupuncturists, and participate in a Board-sponsored mentorship or reentry program, are eligible to earn up to 12 credits per renewal.

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