

Dentist Continuing Education Frequently Asked Questions

1. **A new law was passed in December 2007 that required Dentists to obtain 30 credit hours of continuing education (CE) to receive a renewal license. That requirement applies to the September 30, 2009 renewal deadline. Are there requirements for the types of courses that must be taken?**

Yes. 25 of the 30 hours must be in the **clinical** practice of dentistry or medicine. The remaining five (5) hours can be in any course relating to the practice of dentistry or medicine. In addition you are required to receive both hands-on cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training and automated external defibrillator (AED) training.

2. **Do CPR training hours count toward the credits I need in clinical dental hygiene or medicine?**

Yes, but the CPR training you receive must include a hands-on component in addition to AED training. Please note that you must show proof of CPR and AED proficiency in order to renew your license.

3. **Can I count my teaching experience toward CE credits? If yes, how many hours can I count?**

You can count up to four (4) hours of teaching experience in every two-year licensure period.

4. **How do I substantiate my CE hours and how long should I keep proof of completion of CE?**

You will need to obtain a certificate from the program's sponsor showing that you attended their program. Certificates of attendance or completion must be kept for a period of six (6) years. The department has the authority to conduct random audits of continuing education compliance.

5. **What if I have not completed my CE requirement at the time of renewal?**

You will not be able to obtain a renewal license until you have completed the CE requirement for that biennium. You will be required to attest to having completed the CE requirement on the renewal license application form.

6. **How will I be able to find programs to attend that qualify for CE credit?**

A program will qualify for CE credits if it is sponsored or recognized by a local, state, regional, national, or international dental or medical professional organization. It will also qualify if it is a college-level course that is offered by a post-secondary institution accredited by the American Dental Association (ADA) or another CE approval entity.

7. **Are government in-service training programs approved for CE credit?**

Yes, but only if they are sponsored or recognized by an approved organization listed in #6.

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8. **Are programs offered by universities and dental and dental hygiene programs approved for CE credit?**

Yes.

9. **Are programs sponsored by dental study groups approved for CE credit?**

Yes, but only if the study group is certified to provide CE by the American Dental Association Continuing Education Recognition Program (ADA CERP), the Academy of General Dentistry Program Approval for Continuing Education (AGD PACE) program or another CE approval entity.

10. **Are programs offered through dental labs and/or dental suppliers approved for CE credit?**

Yes, but only if the dental labs and/or dental suppliers are certified to provide CE by the American Dental Association Continuing Education Recognition Program (ADA CERP), the Academy of General Dentistry Program Approval for Continuing Education (AGD PACE) program or another CE approval entity.

11. **Are table-top clinic demonstrations approved for CE credit?**

Yes, but only if they are sponsored or recognized by an approved organization listed in #6.

12. **Are home study or distance learning programs approved for CE credit?**

Yes, but only if they are sponsored or recognized by an approved organization listed in #6.

13. **Do I have to meet the CE requirements for the biennium in which I get my license?**

No. You do not have to meet the CE requirements during the biennium in which you are first licensed. You will have to complete the requirement to receive your second renewal license.

14. **If I am applying for a license through endorsement, do I have to have completed the CE requirement to obtain a license?**

No, you do not need to complete CE to obtain your initial license. Also see #13 for additional information.

15. **Do retired dentists or dentists practicing only on a limited or voluntary basis have to meet the CE requirement?**

Yes. No one can practice dentistry in Wisconsin without a license. The only way to maintain a license is to go through the renewal process. A renewal license may not be issued until the CE requirement is met.

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16. **May residency hours be applied toward the CE requirements?**

Yes. Active enrollment in a CODA approved residency program for at least 12 months of the current CE biennium will satisfy the 30 hour CE requirement.