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Continuing Education

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→ Continuing Education Requirements

→ Each auxiliary licensee must complete 25 units, of an approved type, during each 2-year renewal cycle, **except that RDHAPs must complete 35 units. Units are not required for the very first renewal after a license is first issued.**

→ The provider giving the courses must be registered with the Board for the courses to be approved. Each individual course is not approved by the Board. If you have questions about whether the provider has a current registration with the [Dental Board](#), call (916) 263-2300.

→ [Approved Provider List](#)

Section 1016. Providers and Courses

(a) Definition of Terms:

(1) Course of Study Defined. "Course of study" means an orderly learning experience in an area of study pertaining to dental and medical health, preventive dental services, diagnosis and treatment planning, clinical procedures, basic health sciences, dental practice management and administration, communication, ethics, patient management or the Dental Practice Act and other laws specifically related to dental practice.

(2) Coursework Defined. The term "Coursework" used herein refers to materials presented or used for continuing education and shall be designed and delivered in a manner that serves to directly enhance the licensee's knowledge, skill and competence in the provision of service to patients or the community.

(b) Courses of study for continuing education credit shall include:

(1) Mandatory courses required by the Board for license renewal to include a Board-approved course in Infection Control, a Board-approved course in the California Dental Practice Act and completion of certification in Basic Life Support.

(A) At a minimum, course content for a Board-approved course in Infection Control shall include all content of Section 1005 and the application of the regulations in the dental environment.

(B) At a minimum, course content for the Dental Practice Act [Division 2, Chapter 4 of the Code (beginning with §1600)] shall instruct on acts in violation of the Dental Practice Act and attending regulations, and other statutory mandates relating to the dental practice. This includes utilization and scope of practice for auxiliaries and dentists; laws governing the prescribing of drugs; citations, fines, revocation and suspension of a license, and license renewal; and the mandatory reporter obligations set forth in the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (Penal Code Section 11164 et seq.) and the Elder Abuse and Dependent Adult Civil Protection Act (Welfare and Institutions Code Section 15600 et seq.) and the clinical signs to look for in identifying abuse.

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(C) The mandatory requirement for certification in Basic Life Support shall be met by completion of either:

- (i) An American Heart Association (AHA) or American Red Cross (ARC) course in Basic Life Support (BLS) or,
- (ii) A BLS course taught by a provider approved by the American Dental Association's Continuing Education Recognition Program (CERP) or the Academy of General Dentistry's Program Approval for Continuing Education (PACE).

For the purposes of this section, a Basic Life Support course shall include all of the following:

- 1. Instruction in both adult and pediatric CPR, including 2-rescuer scenarios;
- 2. Instruction in foreign-body airway obstruction;
- 3. Instruction in relief of choking for adults, child and infant;
- 4. Instruction in the use of automated external defibrillation with CPR; and;
- 5. A live, in-person skills practice session, a skills test and a written examination;

The course provider shall ensure that the course meets the required criteria.

(2) Courses in the actual delivery of dental services to the patient or the community, such as:

- (A) Courses in preventive services, diagnostic protocols and procedures (including physical evaluation, radiography, dental photography) comprehensive treatment planning, charting of the oral conditions, informed consent protocols and recordkeeping.
- (B) Courses dealing primarily with nutrition and nutrition counseling of the patient.
- (C) Courses in esthetic, corrective and restorative oral health diagnosis and treatment.
- (D) Courses in dentistry's role in individual and community health emergencies, disasters, and disaster recovery.
- (E) Courses that pertain to the legal requirement governing the licensee in the areas of auxiliary employment and delegation of responsibilities; the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA); actual delivery of care.
- (F) Courses pertaining to federal, state and local regulations, guidelines or statutes regarding workplace safety, fire and emergency, environmental safety, waste disposal and management, general office safety, and all training requirements set forth by the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal-DOSH) including the Bloodborne Pathogens Standard.
- (G) Courses pertaining to the administration of general anesthesia, conscious sedation, oral conscious sedation or medical emergencies.
- (H) Courses pertaining to the evaluation, selection, use and care of dental instruments, sterilization equipment, operatory equipment, and personal protective attire.
- (I) Courses in dependency issues and substance abuse such as alcohol and drug use as it relates to patient safety, professional misconduct, ethical considerations or malpractice.
- (J) Courses in behavioral sciences, behavior guidance, and patient management in the delivery of care to all populations including special needs, pediatric and sedation patients when oriented specifically to the clinical care of the patient.
- (K) Courses in the selection, incorporation, and use of current and emerging technologies.
- (L) Courses in cultural competencies such as bilingual dental terminology, cross-cultural communication, provision of public health dentistry, and the dental professional's role in provision of care in non-traditional settings when oriented specifically to the needs of the dental patient and will serve to enhance the patient experience.
- (M) Courses in dentistry's role in individual and community health programs.
- (N) Courses pertaining to the legal and ethical aspects of the insurance industry, to include management of third party payer issues, dental billing practices, patient

and provider appeals of payment disputes and patient management of billing matters.

(3) Courses in the following areas are considered to be primarily of benefit to the licensee and shall be limited to a maximum of 20% of a licensee's total required course unit credits for each license or permit renewal period:

- (A) Courses to improve recall and scheduling systems, production flow, communication systems and data management.
- (B) Courses in organization and management of the dental practice including office computerization and design, ergonomics, and the improvement of practice administration and office operations.
- (C) Courses in leadership development and team development.
- (D) Coursework in teaching methodology and curricula development.
- (E) Coursework in peer evaluation and case studies that include reviewing clinical evaluation procedures, reviewing diagnostic methods, studying radiographic data, study models and treatment planning procedures.
- (F) Courses in human resource management and employee benefits.

(4) Courses considered to be of direct benefit to the licensee or outside the scope of dental practice in California include the following, and shall not be recognized for continuing education credit:

- (A) Courses in money management, the licensee's personal finances or personal business matters such as financial planning, estate planning, and personal investments.
- (B) Courses in general physical fitness, weight management or the licensee's personal health.
- (C) Presentations by political or public figures or other persons that do not deal primarily with dental practice or issues impacting the dental profession.
- (D) Courses designed to make the licensee a better business person or designed to improve licensee personal profitability, including motivation and marketing.
- (E) Courses pertaining to the purchase or sale of a dental practice, business or office; courses in transfer of practice ownership, acquisition of partners and associates, practice valuation, practice transitions, or retirement.
- (F) Courses pertaining to the provision of elective facial cosmetic surgery as defined by the Dental Practice Act in Section 1638.1, unless the licensee has a special permit obtained from the Board to perform such procedures pursuant to Section 1638.1 of the Code.

(5) Completion of a course does not constitute authorization for the attendee to perform any services that he or she is not legally authorized to perform based on his or her license or permit type.

(c) Registered Provider Application and Renewal

(1) An applicant for registration as a provider shall submit an "Application for Continuing Education Provider (Rev. 05/09)" that is hereby incorporated by reference. The application shall be accompanied by the fee required by section 1021. The applicant or, if the applicant is not an individual but acting on behalf of a business entity, the individual authorized by the business to act on its behalf shall certify that he or she will only offer courses and issue certificates for courses that meet the requirements in this section.

(2) To renew its registration, a provider shall submit a "Continuing Education Registered Provider Permit Renewal Application (12/15/08)" that is hereby incorporated by reference. The application shall be accompanied by the fee required by section 1021 and a biennial report listing each of the course titles offered, the 11-digit registration number issued to each course, the number of units issued for each course, the dates of all courses offered, the name and qualifications of each instructor, a summary of the content of each course of study, and a sample of the provider's written certification issued to participants during the last renewal period.

(d) Standards for Registration as an Approved Provider

(1) Each course of study shall be conducted on the same educational standards of

scholarship and teaching as that required of a true university discipline and shall be supported by those facilities and educational resources necessary to comply with this requirement. Every instructor or presenter of a continuing education course shall possess education or experience for at least two years in the subject area being taught. Each course of study shall clearly state educational objectives that can realistically be accomplished within the framework of the course. Teaching methods for each course of study shall be described (e.g., lecture, seminar, audiovisual, clinical, simulation, etc.) on all provider reports.

(2) The topic of instruction and course content shall conform to this section.

(3) An opportunity to enroll in such courses of study shall be made available to all dental licensees.

(e) Enforcement, Provider Records Retention and Availability of Provider Records

(1) The board may not grant prior approval to individual courses unless a course is required as a mandatory license renewal course. The minimum course content of all mandatory continuing education courses for all registered providers is set out in subsections (b)(1)(A-C). Providers shall be expected to adhere to these minimum course content requirements or risk registered provider status. Beginning January 1, 2006, all registered providers shall submit their course content outlines for Infection Control and California Dental Practice Act to the board staff for review and approval. If a provider wishes to make any significant changes to the content of a previously approved mandatory course, the provider shall submit a new course content outline to the Board. A provider may not offer the mandatory course until the Board approves the new course outline. All new applicants for provider status shall submit course content outlines for mandatory education courses at the time of application and prior to instruction of mandatory education courses.

(2) Providers must possess and maintain the following:

- (A) Speaker curriculum vitae;
- (B) Course content outline;
- (C) Educational objectives or outcomes;
- (D) Teaching methods utilized;
- (E) Evidence of registration numbers and units issued to each course;
- (F) Attendance records and rosters

(3) The board may randomly audit a provider for any course submitted for credit by a licensee in addition to any course for which a complaint is received. If an audit is conducted, the provider shall submit to the Board the following information and documentation:

- (A) Speaker curriculum vitae;
- (B) Course content outline;
- (C) Educational objectives or outcomes;
- (D) Teaching methods utilized;
- (E) Evidence of registration numbers and units issued to each course; and
- (F) Attendance records and rosters

(4) All provider records described in this article shall be retained for a period of no less than three provider renewal periods.

(f) Withdrawal of Provider Registration

(1) The board retains the right and authority to audit or monitor courses given by any provider. The board may withdraw or place restrictions on a provider's registration if the provider has disseminated any false or misleading information in connection with the continuing education program, fails to comply with regulations, misrepresents the course offered, makes any false statement on its application or otherwise violates any provision of the Dental Practice Act or the regulations adopted thereunder.

(2) Any provider whose registration is withdrawn or restricted shall be granted a hearing before the executive officer or his or her designee prior to the effective date of such action. The provider shall be given at least ten days notice of the grounds for the proposed action and the time and place of such hearing.

(g) Provider Issuance of Units of Credit for Attendance

One unit of credit shall be granted for every hour of contact instruction and may be issued in half-hour increments. Such increments shall be represented by the use of a decimal point in between the first two numbers of the 11-digit registration number of the course. This credit shall apply to either academic or clinical instruction. Eight units shall be the maximum continuing education credits granted in one day.

(h) Additional Provider Responsibilities

(1) A provider shall furnish a written certification of course completion to each licensee certifying that the licensee has met the attendance requirements of the course. Such certification shall not be issued until completion of the course and shall contain the following:

(A) The licensee's, name and license or permit number, the provider's name, the 11-digit course registration number in the upper left hand corner of the certificate, date or dates attended, the number of units earned, and a place for the licensee to sign and date verifying attendance.

(B) An authorizing signature of the provider or the providing entity and a statement that reads: "All of the information contained on this certificate is truthful and accurate."

(C) A statement on each certification that reads: "Completion of this course does not constitute authorization for the attendee to perform any services that he or she is not legally authorized to perform based on his or her license or permit type."

(2) If an individual whose license or permit has been cancelled, revoked, or voluntarily surrendered attends and completes a continuing education course, the provider or attendee may document on the certificate of course completion the license or permit number the individual held before the license or permit was cancelled, revoked, or voluntarily surrendered.

(3) When two or more registered providers co-sponsor a course, only one provider number shall be used for that course and that provider must assume full responsibility for compliance with the requirements of this article.

(4) Only Board-approved providers whose course content outlines for Infection Control and California Dental Practice Act have been submitted and approved by the Board may issue continuing education certifications to participants of these courses.

(5) The instructor of a course who holds a current and active license or permit to practice issued by the Board may receive continuing education credit for up to 20% of their total required units per renewal period for the course or courses they teach for a provider other than themselves.

(6) Upon request, a provider shall issue a duplicate certification to a licensee whose name appears on the provider's original roster of course attendees. A provider may not issue a duplicate certification to a licensee whose name is not on the original roster of course attendees. The provider, not the licensee shall clearly mark on the certificate the word "duplicate."

(7) Providers shall place the following statement on all certifications, course advertisements, brochures and other publications relating to all course offerings: "This course meets the Dental Board of California's requirements for _(number of)_units of continuing education."

(i) Out of State Courses and Courses Offered by Other Authorized and Non-Authorized Providers

(1) Notwithstanding subdivision (b) of Section 1016, licensees who attend continuing education courses given by providers approved by the American Dental Association's Continuing Education Recognition Program (CERP) or the Academy of General Dentistry's Program Approval for Continuing Education (PACE) and who obtain a certification of attendance from the provider or sponsor shall be given credit towards his or her total continuing education requirement for renewal of his or her license with the exception of mandatory continuing education courses, if the course meets the

requirements of continuing education set forth in this section.

(b) A licensee who attends a course or program that meets all content requirements for continuing education pursuant to these regulations, but was presented outside California by a provider not approved by the Board, may petition the Board for consideration of the course by submitting information on course content, course duration and evidence from the provider of course completion. When the necessary requirements have been fulfilled, the board may issue a written certificate of course completion for the approved number of units, which the licensee may then use for documentation of continuing education credits.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1614 and 1645, Business and Professions Code.
Reference: Section 1645, Business and Professions Code.

HISTORY

1. Amendment filed 4-4-88; operative 4-4-88 (Register 88, No. 17)
2. Change without regulatory effect filed 9-2-88; operative 9-2-88 (Register 88, No. 37). The regulatory forms referred to in subsections (b)(1), (b)(2) and (h), which were approved for filing with the Secretary of State on 4-4-88, are located in Register 88, No. 38-Z of the California Regulatory Notice Register
3. Amendment of subsection (h) filed 8-2-91; operative 9-2-91 (Register 91, No. 48).
4. Amendment of subsection (a), new subsections (a)(1)-(a)(2)(E), redesignation of former second paragraph and subsections (a)(1)-(6) as subsections (a)(3)-(a)(3)(F), amendment of newly designated subsection (a)(3)(F), and new subsections (a)(3)(G)-(K) filed 2-29-96; operative 3-30-96 (Register 96, No.9)
5. Amendment filed 10-6-2005; operative 11-5-2005 (Register 2005, No. 40).
6. Amendment of section heading and section filed 3-9-2010; operative 3-9-2010 pursuant to Government Code section 11343.4 (Register 2010, No. 11).

1016.1 Processing Times - REPEALED

1017. Units Required for Renewal of License

(a) As a condition of renewal, all licensees are required to complete continuing education as follows:

- (1) Two units of continuing education in Infection Control specific to California regulations as defined in section 1016(b)(1)(A).
- (2) Two units of continuing education in the California Dental Practice Act and its related regulations as defined in section 1016(b)(1)(B).
- (3) A maximum of four units of a course in Basic Life Support as specified in section 1016(b)(1)(C).

(b) Mandatory continuing education units count toward the total units required to renew a license or permit; however, failure to complete the mandatory courses will result in non-renewal of a license or permit. Any continuing education units accumulated before April 8, 2010 that meet the requirements in effect on the date the units were accumulated will be accepted by the Board for license or permit renewals taking place on or after April 8, 2010.

(c) All licensees shall accumulate the continuing education units equal to the number of units indicated below during the biennial license or permit renewal period assigned by the Board on each license or permit. All licensees shall verify to the Board that he or she who has been issued a license or permit to practice for a period less than two years shall begin accumulating continuing education credits within the next biennial renewal period occurring after the issuance of a new license or permit to practice.

- (1) Dentists: 50 units.
- (2) Registered dental hygienists: 25 units.
- (3) Registered dental assistants: 25 units.
- (4) Dental Sedation Assistant Permit Holders: 25 units.
- (5) Orthodontic Assistant Permit Holders: 25 units.
- (6) Registered dental hygienists in extended functions: 25 units.

(7) Registered dental assistants in extended functions: 25 units.

(8) Registered dental hygienists in alternative practice: 35 units.

(d) Each dentist licensee who holds a general anesthesia permit shall complete, as a condition of permit renewal, continuing education requirements pursuant to Section 1646.5 of the Business and Professions Code at least once every two years, and either (1) an advanced cardiac life support course which is approved by the American Heart Association and which includes an examination on the materials presented in the course or (2) any other advanced cardiac life support course which is identical in all respects, except for the omission of materials that relate solely to hospital emergencies or neonatology, to the course entitled "2005 American Heart Association Guidelines for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care" published by the American Heart Association December 13, 2005 which is incorporated herein by reference.

(e) Each dentist licensee who holds a conscious sedation permit shall complete at least once every two years a minimum of 15 total units of coursework related to the administration of conscious sedation and to medical emergencies, as a condition of permit renewal, in continuing education requirements pursuant to Section 1647.5 of the of the Business and Professions Code. Refusal to execute the required assurance shall result in non-renewal of the permit.

(f) Each dentist licensee who holds an oral conscious sedation permit for minors, as a condition of permit renewal, shall complete at least once every two years a minimum of 7 total units of coursework related to the subject area in continuing education requirements pursuant to Section 1647.13 of the Business and Professions Code.

(g) Each dentist licensee who holds an oral conscious sedation permit for adults, as a condition of permit renewal, shall complete at least once every two years a minimum of 7 total units of coursework related to the subject area in continuing education requirements pursuant to Section 1647.21 of the of the Business and Professions Code.

(h) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this code, tape recorded courses, home study materials, video courses, and computer courses are considered correspondence courses, and will be accepted for credit up to, but not exceeding, 50% of the licensee's total required units.

(i) In the event that a portion of a licensee's units have been obtained through non-live instruction, as described in Section (h) above, all remaining units shall be obtained through live interactive course study with the option to obtain 100% of the total required units by way of interactive instruction courses. Such courses are defined as live lecture, live telephone conferencing, live video conferencing, live workshop demonstration, or live classroom study.

(j) Licensees who participate in the following activities shall be issued continuing education credit for up to 20% of their total continuing education unit requirements for license renewal:

(1) Participation in any Dental Board of California or Western Regional Examination Board (WREB) administered examination including attendance at calibration training, examiner orientation sessions, and examinations.

(2) Participation in any site visit or evaluation relating to issuance and maintenance of a general anesthesia, conscious sedation or oral conscious sedation permit.

(3) Participation in any calibration training and site evaluation training session relating to general anesthesia, conscious sedation or oral conscious sedation permits.

(4) Participation in any site visit or evaluation of an approved dental auxiliary program or dental auxiliary course.

(k) The Board shall issue to participants in the activities listed in subdivision (j) a certificate that contains the date, time, location, authorizing signature, 11-digit course registration number, and number of units conferred for each activity consistent with all certificate requirements herein required for the purposes of records retention and auditing.

(l) The license or permit of any person who fails to accumulate the continuing education units set forth in this section or to assure the board that he or she will accumulate such units, shall not be renewed until such time as the licensee complies with those requirements.

(m) A licensee who has not practiced in California for more than one year because the licensee is disabled need not comply with the continuing education requirements of this article during the renewal period within which such disability falls. Such licensee shall certify in writing that he or she

is eligible for waiver of the continuing education requirements. A licensee who ceases to be eligible for such waiver shall notify the Board of such and shall comply with the continuing education requirements for subsequent renewal periods.

(n) A licensee shall retain, for a period of three renewal periods, the certificates of course completion issued to him or her at the time he or she attended a continuing education course and shall forward such certifications to the Board only upon request by the Board for audit purposes. A licensee who fails to retain a certification shall contact the provider and obtain a duplicate certification.

(o) Any licensee who furnishes false or misleading information to the Board regarding his or her continuing education units may be subject to disciplinary action. The Board may audit a licensee continuing education records as it deems necessary to ensure that the continuing education requirements are met.

(p) A licensee who also holds a special permit for general anesthesia, conscious sedation, oral conscious sedation of a minor or of an adult, may apply the continuing education units required in the specific subject areas to their dental license renewal requirements.

(q) A registered dental assistant or registered dental assistant in extended functions who holds a permit as an orthodontic assistant or a dental sedation assistant shall not be required to complete additional continuing education requirements beyond that which is required for licensure renewal in order to renew either permit.

(r) Pertaining to licensees holding more than one license or permit, the license or permit that requires the largest number of continuing education units for renewal shall equal the licensee's full renewal requirement. Dual licensure, or licensure with permit, shall not require duplication of continuing education requirements.

(s) Current and active licensees enrolled in a full-time educational program in the field of dentistry, including dental school program, residency program, postdoctoral specialty program, dental hygiene school program, dental hygiene in alternative practice program, or registered dental assisting in extended functions program approved by the Board or the ADA Commission on Dental Accreditation shall be granted continuing education credits for completed curriculum during that renewal period. In the event of audit, licensees shall be required to present school transcripts to the Board as evidence of enrollment and course completion.

(t) Current and active dental sedation assistant and orthodontic assistant permit holders enrolled in a full-time dental hygiene school program, dental assisting program, or registered dental assisting in extended functions program approved by the Board or the ADA Commission on Dental Accreditation shall be granted continuing education credits for completed curriculum during that renewal period. In the event of audit, assisting permit holders shall be required to present school transcripts to the committee or Board as evidence of enrollment and course completion.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1614 and 1645, Business and Professions Code.
Reference: Sections 1645, 1646.5 and 1647.5, Business and Professions Code.

HISTORY

1. Amendment of subsection (a) filed 8-23-85; effective thirtieth day thereafter (Register 85, No. 34).
2. Amendment of subsection (a) filed 1-22-86; effective thirtieth day thereafter (Register 86, No. 4).
3. Amendment filed 4-4-88; operative 4-4-88 (Register 88, No. 17).
4. Amendment of subsection (a) filed 6-8-88; operative 7-8-88 (Register 88, No. 25).
5. Amendment filed 4-1-91; operative 5-1-91 (Register 91, No. 18).
6. New subsection (a), subsection relettering, and amendment of newly designated subsections (b) and (d) filed 7-8-96; operative 8-7-96 (Register 96, No. 28).
7. Amendment of subsection (c) filed 2-2-99; operative 3-4-99 (Register 99, No. 6).
8. Amendment of subsection (b)(1), new subsections (b)(4)-(6) and amendment of Note filed 7-21-99; operative 8-20-99 (Register 99, No. 30).
9. Amendment of subsections (a) and (e) and amendment of Note filed 4-8-2003; operative 5-8-2003 (Register 2003, No. 15).
10. Amendment filed 10-6-2005; operative 11-5-2005 (Register 2005, No. 40).

11. Amendment of section heading and section filed 3-9-2010; operative 3-9-2010 pursuant to Government Code section 11343.4 (Register 2010, No. 11).

Section 1017.1. Processing Times - REPEALED

1017.2. Inactive Licenses

- (a) A licensee who desires an inactive license shall submit an application to the board on a form provided by the board.
- (b) In order to restore an inactive license to active status, the licensee shall submit an application to the board on a form provided by the board, accompanied by evidence that the licensee has completed the required number of hours of approved continuing education in compliance with this article within the last two years preceding such application
- (c) The holder of an inactive license shall continue to pay to the board the required biennial renewal fee.
- (d) The board shall inform an applicant who wishes to activate/inactivate his/her license in writing with 30 days whether the application is complete and accepted for filing or is deficient and what specific information is required. The board shall decide within 30 days after the filing of a completed application whether the applicant meets the requirements.

Note: Authority cited: Section 1614, Business and Professions Code; and Section 15376, Government Code. Reference: Sections 700-704, Business and Professions Code; and Sections 15347 et seq., Government Code.

HISTORY

- 1. New section filed 4-4-88; operative 4-4-88 (Register 88, No. 17).
- 2. Change without regulatory effect filed 9-2-88; operative 9-2-88 (Register 88, No. 37). The regulatory forms referred to in subsections (a) and (b), which were approved for filing with the Secretary of State on 4-4-88, are located in Register 88, No. 38-Z of the California Regulatory Notice Register.

For more information, please contact the Dental Board at (916) 263-2300.

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