



Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

www.state.oh.us/slp

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Continuing Education Rule – Section 4753-4-01, Ohio Administrative Code

Refer to OAC for complete information regarding continuing education.

Frequently asked questions and answers about Continuing Education Requirements:

1. How can I learn the requirements for continuing education for renewal of my speech-language pathology or audiology license?

Copies of the Ohio Revised Code and Ohio Administrative Code are available at any public library, on the internet, and may also be obtained from the Board office. Continuing education is addressed on pages 42 & 43 in the Ohio Administrative Code.

2. How much continuing education is required?

A licensee must earn twenty continuing education hours within the two-year period immediately preceding the licensee's renewal application. Actual contact hours spent in a continuing education activity will be considered. Lunches, breaks and other interruptions shall not count toward the required hours. For example, attending a three hour presentation earns three continuing education hours.

3. When is continuing education required?

Continuing education is required at each renewal with the exception of the very first renewal.

4. What topics may be used to meet the continuing education requirements?

Ten continuing education hours must be specific to clinical practice in the area of licensure. Ten continuing education hours may be acquired in areas related to speech-language pathology or audiology or both. All twenty hours may be in the area of licensure.

5. What is the “area of licensure”?

The area of licensure is speech-language pathology or audiology as indicated by the license.

6. What are “related areas”?

Related areas are topics not specific to the area of licensure but would enhance the practice of the licensee.

7. How will licensees know when to renew the license?

No less than thirty days prior to the deadline for licensure renewal all licensees will be notified by the Board office of the requirement to renew their license. Visit our web site at <http://slpaud.ohio.gov>

8. How will the Board know that a licensee has met the continuing education requirements for renewal?

With payment of the renewal fee the licensee will submit an application attesting to the completion of required continuing education hours.

9. When must the continuing education hours be earned?

Beginning in year 2006, all timely renewals must be submitted by September 30th of the biennial renewal. Licensees must have their twenty hours of continuing education completed before filing their renewal by September 30th of the renewal year.

10. How much continuing education is required for re-licensure?

A license expired for more than one year cannot be renewed. The licensee must re-apply for licensure. Applicants previously licensed in the State of Ohio are required to submit to the Board documentation of completion of continuing education hours equivalent to those required of a licensee during the period of expiration to the Board **or** 40 hours of continuing education obtained within the last 2 years from the date of application.

11. How long may continuing education hours be carried?

Continuing education hours may not be carried over from one renewal period to the next. If the license was expired more than one year, continuing education may have been earned during the period of expiration.

12. What continuing education programs meet requirements for license renewal?

(a) Academic coursework, including distance learning, in areas of speech-language pathology or audiology, or both, or related disciplines, taken through accredited colleges or universities.

(b) Any activity approved for continuing education hours in related disciplines by any licensure board of the state of Ohio or any other state;

(c) Any activity approved for continuing education in related disciplines by any department or agency of the state of Ohio or any other state; including any continuing education hours by a local professional development committee for renewal of a teaching certificate/license issued by the state's department of education to practice speech-language pathology or audiology;

(d) Any activity, including distance learning or independent or self-directed study, approved for continuing education credit by an authorized provider of the "International Association of Continuing Education and Training,"; or

(e) The equivalent as determined by the board.

13. What is ASHA Independent-Study credit?

ASHA sponsors can offer independent-study credit to individuals who wish alternatives to group programs. Independent study is a self-designed educational experience for the enhancement of one's knowledge in a specific area relevant to the field of communication disorders. A plan of study must be completed by an ASHA sponsor and the licensee and submitted for ASHA continuing education credit. ASHA membership is not required for credit but, reporting of credit is done through the ASHA registry. For a list of sponsors and complete procedures call (301) 897-5700 ex-4481.

14. How can a licensee determine whether a Continuing Education activity meets the criteria defined by (a) through (d) above?

Licensees may contact the continuing education provider or an agency defined by (a) through (d) above, if announcement and registration materials do not indicate sponsorship or approving authorities.

15. Is it necessary to register for university credit for continuing education?

If a transcript is not available because the licensee was not registered, some alternative proof of successful completion of the course must be available.

16. How are credit hours, semester hours or quarter hours for academic coursework converted to continuing education units?

For license renewal, each hour spent in class can be counted toward your 20 hours of required continuing education for license renewal.

17. Will continuing education approved by the Ohio licensure boards for occupational therapists, physical therapist, doctors, nurses, psychologists, counselors and social workers, etc. be accepted for speech-language pathology and audiology license renewal?

If topics of continuing education are related to the practice of speech-language pathology or audiology, they will be accepted.

18. Can continuing education credit be earned for presenting or teaching continuing education?

ASHA continuing education credit for instructors will be accepted.

19. Is continuing education required for licensees who are ill, disabled, retired or who are not required to obtain continuing education for other certifications or memberships?

Continuing education requirements can not be extended, reduced, or waived.

20. Can I earn continuing education without leaving my home?

Many continuing education activities on video, audio and computer learning programs meet requirements for license renewal. Continuing education may be earned at home in any programs approved by agencies defined in (a) through (d). For example, accredited colleges and universities offer correspondence courses, distance learning programs and courses via the internet; ASHA offers independent study programs, journal study groups and self-paced home-study packages.

21. When is verification of continuing education submitted to the Board?

Documentation of continuing education should be submitted when a licensee is audited or when reapplying for licensure after a license has expired for more than one year.

22. What documentation is required?

Documentation shall be written verification of successful completion by the applicant or licensee from a board approved continuing education registry or provider of the continuing education hours. Documentation shall include the name of the continuing education provider, dates, subject, number of clock hours, and attendance of the licensee.

23. How long must continuing education records be saved?

Licensees must save documentation of continuing education hours for four years after the date of renewal.