

Summary: This chapter sets forth the nature and amount of continuing professional education contact hours required for renewal of licenses issued by the board.

1. Generally

1. 25 Contact Hours Required for License Renewal

Except as set forth in 10 M.R.S.A. §8003(5), no license will be renewed unless the licensee has completed 25 contact hours of continuing professional education directly related to the practice of social work during the preceding biennial license term as set forth in this chapter.

2. Conditionally Licensed Social Workers: Ethics and Assessment

For holders of a conditional licensed social worker license issued on or after January 1, 2004, at least 6 of the 25 contact hours must be earned in social work ethics and at least 6 of the 25 contact hours must be earned in psychosocial assessment.

3. All Other Licensees: Ethics

For all other licensees, beginning with license renewals occurring after January 1, 2006, at least 4 of the 25 contact hours must be earned in social work ethics.

2. Audit

The licensee's attestation of completion of continuing professional education is subject to audit pursuant to Chapter 13 of the rules of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Office of Licensing and Registration, entitled "Uniform Rule for the Substantiation of Continuing Education Requirements."

3. Continuing Professional Education Activities

Continuing professional education contact hours may be earned by participation in the following activities only:

1. Seminars, Workshops and Institutes

2. Academic Courses

3. **In-Service Training Sessions**
4. **Distance Learning Activities in Which Immediate Interaction With the Instructor is Available**
5. **Teaching, Writing, Audiotapes, Videotapes, Independent Study, Certain Distance Learning**

A maximum of 10 hours total is permitted within the following 3 categories:

- A. **Teaching.** A social worker may claim continuing professional education credit for preparation and presentation of a course, workshop or seminar for the first time it is presented, only.
- B. **Writing.** A social worker may claim continuing professional education credit for writing articles and books for publication, as well as for reviewing and editing articles and books.
- C. **Audiotapes/disks, Videotapes/disks, and Independent Study.** A licensee may claim continuing professional education credit only once for a particular audiotape/disk, videotape/disk or course of independent study. Continuing professional education credit may not be claimed for a course of independent study that is substantially similar to a course that the licensee has previously taken for credit.
- D. **Non-interactive distance learning.** Distance learning activities in which immediate interaction with the instructor is not available.

4. **Board Approval of Certain Continuing Professional Education Activities**

The board may pre-approve seminars, workshops and institutes for content and relevance to the practice of social work at the request of sponsors only. A licensee may claim continuing professional education credit for activities that have not been pre-approved. However, credit may be denied upon audit if the activity does not meet the requirements of this chapter.

A seminar, workshop or institute for which pre-approval has been sought and denied is not eligible for continuing professional education credit.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 M.R.S.A. §7030(5)

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