

Dental Hygiene Continuing Education Frequently Asked Questions

1. **A new law was passed in April 2006; that requires Dental Hygienist to obtain 12 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. 12 credit hours in continuing education relating to the clinical practice of dental hygiene that is sponsored or recognized by a local, state, regional, national, or international dental hygiene, dental assisting, or medical related professional organization. You are also required to receive both hands-on cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training and automated external defibrillator (AED) training. In addition not less than two (2) of the credit hours required must be satisfied in infection control training.

Please note OSHA mandates one (1) training each year.

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. One (1) hour of teaching or preparing a CE program is equivalent to one (1) hour of CE; however a person who teaches or prepares a CE program may obtain credit for the program only once.

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, dental hygiene, dental assisting, medical related professional organization or another CE approval entity. College-level courses related to the practice of dental hygiene accredited by American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation are acceptable. One (1) credit hour of college level course work is equivalent to six (6) credit hours of continuing education.

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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.

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

Yes. College-level courses related to the practice of dental hygiene accredited by American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation are acceptable. One (1) credit hour of college level course work is equivalent to six (6) credit hours of continuing education.

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 Commission on Dental Accreditation (ADA CDA), American Dental Association Continuing Education Recognition Program (ADA CERP), the Academy of General Dentistry Program Approval for Continuing Education (AGD PACE) program, American Academy of Dental Hygiene (AADH) 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, American Academy of Dental Hygiene (AADH) 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. The CE requirements do not apply to an applicant for a renewal of a license that expires on the first renewal date after the date on which the Examining Board initially granted the license. You will have to complete the requirement to receive your second renewal license.

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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 CPR training hours count toward the credits I need in clinical dentistry 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.

16. **Do retired dental hygienists or dental hygienists practicing only on a limited or voluntary basis have to meet the CE requirement?**

Yes. The only way to maintain a license in Wisconsin is to go through the renewal process. A renewal license may not be issued until the CE requirement is met.