

PA Continuing Education Credit Requirements for Psychologists – Frequently Asked Questions

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General

How many credits do I need each biennia?

Psychologists in Pennsylvania must earn 30 CE credits per biennium. Biennia run from odd year to odd year. For example, December 1, 2017 – November 30, 2019.

What types of courses qualify for CE credit for psychologists?

The PA State Board of Psychology won't accept courses/workshop unrelated to the practice of psychology.

Credits for psychologists must come from:

- An APA approved provider/course
- An AMA approved provider/course
- A provider approved by the State Board of Psychology
- An accredited college or university with semester hours, related to the practice of psychology

I've already taken a course but would like to retake it. Will the course apply for credit?

Psychologists can retake a course that they've already taken, but not in the same biennium.

How long do I have to keep documentation of attending CE courses?

Certificates, transcripts or other documentation of CE courses should be retained for at least two biennia (four years).

Can I use CE credit from a course I took outside of Pennsylvania?

Psychologists from Pennsylvania can use CE credits obtained from a different state, and apply their PA CE credits to other states, but regulations from both states should be reviewed to ensure that the courses meet the requirements listed in the regulations.

Biennium Requirements

How many CE credits are required per biennia?

30 credits required

- Up to 15 can be from home studies
 - Required CE:
 - 3 Ethics
 - **What counts as ethics credit?**
 - The word “ethics” must be part of the title, or the certificate must state that the credits apply for Ethics credits.
 - 2 Child Abuse Reporting (Act 31)
 - 1 Suicide Prevention
- If you have additional credits, up to 10 can be carried over to the next biennium.
 - Ethics credits cannot be carried over and applied to the Ethics requirement. Psychologists must take an ethics course each biennium.

Supervision

What’s is required in order to be eligible for supervision?

To be eligible to supervise you must complete a course during graduate training on supervision, OR, take a 3-hour workshop on supervision.

Credits for Teaching

Can I earn credit for teaching?

Psychologists can earn credit for teaching at a university. The same course can only be submitted once every four years. The course should include a Psy prefix.

- For example, if Psych 101 is submitted for the 2015 biennium, you cannot resubmit that course for the 2017 biennium.

One clock hour of instruction = one contract hour, **up to 15 credits**

As such, if the psychologist is teaching a psychology course for an accredited college/university, he/she would be eligible for 15 hours of continuing education, which is the max that can be earned for teaching. One college credit is equivalent to 15 hours of continuing education.

Credits for Professional Writing

Can I claim credit for writing?

Psychologists can claim up to 10 credits for professional writing

- The writing must be published in a journal abstracted in PsychLit or a chapter in a trade or textbook.

- If there are multiple authors, the credit must be divided between authors.

Webinars: Live vs. Home Study

What is the difference between “live” and home study credit?

Live, Interactive Webinars happen in real time, when the speaker is able to interact with attendees

- A webinar is considered *live* when “Instructors and participants can see, interact, and discuss information in real time”
 - If all three of these do not occur, then a webinar is considered a home study.

Lapsed/Inactive Licenses

What can I do if my license has lapsed?

If your license has lapsed or is inactive, psychologists who wish to be reinstated must show that they have completed their required 30 credits in the biennium preceding the lapse before applying for reinstatement.

Newly Licensed

Do I need to complete the licensure requirements if I was just licensed?

Newly licensed psychologists are exempt from credit requirements within two years of the first application for biennial renewal.

Cannot meet licensure requirements

What should I do if I can't meet the licensure requirements?

If you cannot meet the licensure requirements in the biennium:

- Write to the State Board of Psychology asking for a waiver
 - The letter to the Board must include information on why it was impossible for the CE requirements to be completed
- The Board reviews requests on a case-by-case basis