

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Continuing education is mandatory for all dentists and hygienists in order for them to maintain their licenses. All of the following information is available in Chapter 16 of the Dental Practice Act; however, the summary below provides a basic overview of the specific clinical requirements.

Continuing education requirements for dental relicensure:

40 total hours per biennial license period.

Of those 40 total hours, **20 must be clinical in nature.**

Of those 20 clinical hours, **10 must be personally attended.**

The remaining **10 clinical hours may be personally attended OR online/correspondence courses (still clinical in nature) that require a written test at the completion of the course.**

The remaining 20 hours may be EITHER clinical OR non-clinical.

If further explanation is needed, please refer to Chapter 16 (below) of the Dental Practice Act.

Continuing education requirements for dental hygiene relicensure:

24 total hours per biennial license period.

Of those 24 total hours, **12 must be clinical in nature.**

Of those 12 clinical hours, **6 must be personally attended.**

The remaining **6 clinical hours may be personally attended OR online/correspondence courses (still clinical in nature) that require a written test at the completion of the course.**

The remaining 12 hours may be EITHER clinical OR non-clinical.

If further explanation is needed, please refer to Chapter 16 (below) of the Dental Practice Act.

Chapter 16. Continuing Education Requirements

§1601. Scope of Chapter

A. The rules of this Chapter govern the board's minimum continuing education requirements for relicensure and recertification of dentists and dental hygienists as authorized by R.S. 37:760(13), and provides for record keeping, penalties, reporting, exemptions, approved courses of instruction, and all related matters. Except where noted, these rules shall apply equally to dentists and dental hygienists.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:760(8)(13).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Dentistry, LR 20:661 (June 1994).

§1603. Effective Date

A. Beginning January 1, 1995, dentists and dental hygienists licensed to practice in the state of Louisiana, in addition to other requirements, shall complete the minimum hours of continuing education set forth in this Chapter during each renewal period in order to renew or have recertified their licenses, permits or certificates necessary to practice dentistry or dental hygiene in this state. These continuing education requirements also apply to all dentists and dental hygienists licensed to practice in Louisiana, but are practicing outside of Louisiana.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:760(8)(13).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Dentistry, LR 20:661 (June 1994), amended LR 26:489 (March 2000).

§1605. Penalties

A. Failure to comply with the requirements of this Chapter may be grounds for disciplinary action against the licensee under R.S. 37:776(A), (3), (24) for dentists, and R.S. 37:777(3), (18) for dental hygienists setting forth cause for the non-issuance, suspension, revocation, or imposition of restrictions on one's license to practice dentistry or dental hygiene, and/or imposition of a fine as set forth in R.S. 37:780(B).

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:760(8), (13).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Dentistry, LR 20:661 (June 1994).

§1607. Exemptions

A. Continuing education requirements shall not apply to:

1. dentists enrolled in full-time post-graduate specialty training;
2. dental hygienists enrolled in full-time post-graduate training;
3. dentists in the first calendar year of their graduation from dental school;
4. dental hygienists in the first calendar year of their graduation from dental hygiene school.

B. In the event of unusual circumstances or special hardship, the board may excuse licensees from continuing education requirements.

C. Due to the fact that dental and dental hygiene licenses are issued on a biennial basis, dentists and dental hygienists must accumulate one-half of the continuing education hours required under LAC 46:XXXIII.1611 and .1613 during the second year of the biennial period in which they received their initial licensure. For example, if a dentist receives his license immediately after graduation in June 1999, and he/she does not have to renew their license until the year 2001, that licensee need only accumulate 20 hours of continuing education, one-half of which must be clinical.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:760(8), (13).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Dentistry, LR 20:661 (June 1994), amended LR 24:1117 (June 1998), LR 26:1613 (August 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1894 (November 2001).

§1609. Reporting and Record Keeping

A. Upon renewal of a dental or dental hygiene license, the licensee must list on a form provided by the board the date, location, sponsor, subject matter and hours completed during the past renewal period of continuing education courses. The licensee must attest to the truthfulness of his report by executing his signature where required on the reporting form.

B. The licensee shall retain satisfactory documentation such as certificates of attendance as may be necessary to document completion of the required number of continuing education hours. The board will not give credit unless the licensee can prove attendance at the course and,

therefore, shall obtain and retain certificates of attendance. With cause, the board may request such documentation. Without cause the board may request such documentation from licensees selected at random.

C. Each dentist and dental hygienist shall maintain records of his/her continuing education for three calendar years following the calendar year in which the course was completed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:760(8), (13).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Dentistry, LR 20:661 (June 1994), amended LR 26:489 (March 2000), LR 28:2512 (December 2002).

§1611. Continuing Education Requirements for Relicensure of Dentists

A. Unless exempted under §1607, each dentist shall complete a minimum of 40 hours of continuing education during each renewal period for the renewal of his/her license to practice dentistry.

B. At least one-half of the minimum credit hours (20) must be attained by personally attending clinical courses pertaining to the actual delivery of dental services to patients. However, ten of these twenty hours may be attained by completing ADA or AGD certified internet or correspondence courses which are clinical in nature and require successful completion of a written examination at the conclusion of said course.

C. No more than 20 of the required 40 hours can be completed from the following:

1. practice management courses;
2. audio and/or video tapes and those journals requiring completion of a written examination to secure proof of hours;

D. Continuing education ordered as a result of disciplinary matters shall not serve as credit for mandatory continuing education unless specifically authorized in a consent decree or in an order issued by the board.

E. Past and present dentist members of the Louisiana State Board of Dentistry are allowed four hours of continuing dental education credit for each meeting of the American Association of Dental Examiners attended by said past or present dentist member.

F. No credit will be given for activities directed primarily to persons preparing for licensure in Louisiana.

G. Dentists who are on staffs of hospitals accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations may receive continuing education credit for those continuing education courses provided by said hospital.

H. Dentists will be awarded three clinical credit hours for successful completion of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Course "C", Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers as defined by the American Heart Association or the Red Cross Professional Rescue Course. When being audited for compliance with cardiopulmonary resuscitation course completion, a photocopy of the CPR card evidencing successful completion of the course for each year shall be appended to the form.

I. Dentists who successfully complete certification courses in advanced cardiac life support continuing education will be awarded up to 16 hours of clinical continuing dental education. However, dentists completing the shorter recertification course in advanced cardiac life support will be awarded 3 hours of clinical continuing dental education.

J. In order to renew permits for the administration of deep sedation, parenteral sedation, and enteral sedation, each licensee shall complete a board approved course pertinent to the level of their sedation permit no less than once every five years.

1. Recertification for deep sedation or general anesthesia as required by the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons every five years shall satisfy this requirement.
- K. Dentists successfully completing the calibration training for the administration of the clinical licensing examination administered by the Council of Interstate Testing Agencies (CITA) may be awarded up to twenty hours of clinical continuing education per each renewal period.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:760(8) and (13).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Dentistry, LR 20:661 (June 1994), amended LR 21:569 (June 1995), LR 22:24 (January 1996), LR 22:1216 (December 1996), LR 23:1526 (November 1997), LR 24:1117 (June 1998), LR 25:510 (March 1999), LR 26:489 (March 2000), LR 30:2307 (October 2004), LR 30:2307 (October 2004), LR 32:244 (February 2006), LR 35:1237 (July 2009).

§1613. Continuing Education Requirements for Relicensure of Dental Hygienists

- A. Unless exempted under §1607, each dental hygienist shall complete a minimum of 24 hours of continuing education during each renewal period for the renewal of his/her license to practice dental hygiene.
- B. At least one-half of the minimum credit hours (12) must be attained by personally attending clinical courses pertaining to the actual delivery of dental or dental hygiene services to patients. However, six of these twelve hours may be attained by completing ADA, AGD, or ADHA certified internet or correspondence courses which are clinical in nature and require successful completion of a written examination at the conclusion of said course.
- C. No more than 12 of the required 24 hours can be completed from the following:
 1. practice management courses;
 2. audio and/or video tapes and those journals requiring completion of a written examination to secure proof of hours;
- D. Continuing education ordered as a result of disciplinary matters shall not serve as credit for mandatory continuing education unless specifically authorized in a consent decree or in an order issued by the board.
- E. Dental hygienists are allowed continuing education credit for courses sponsored and/or approved for dentists continuing education.
- F. Past and present dental hygiene members of the Louisiana State Board of Dentistry are allowed four hours of continuing dental hygiene education credit for each meeting of the American Association of Dental Examiners attended by said past or present dental hygiene member.
- G. No credit will be given for activities directed primarily to persons preparing for licensure in Louisiana.
- H. Dental hygienists who are on staffs of hospitals accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations may receive continuing education credit for those continuing education courses provided by said hospital.
- I. Dental hygienists will be awarded three clinical credit hours for successful completion of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Course "C", Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers as defined by the American Heart Association or the Red Cross Professional Rescue Course. When being audited for compliance with cardiopulmonary resuscitation course completion, a photocopy of the CPR card evidencing successful completion of the course for each year shall be appended to the form.

J. Dental hygienists who successfully complete a continuing education course as set forth in § 710, Administration of Local Anesthesia for Dental Purposes, will be awarded 72 hours of clinical continuing dental hygiene education. However, these hours may not be carried over to a subsequent renewal period and will count only toward the renewal of their license during the period in which they attended the course.

K. Dental hygienists successfully completing the calibration training for the administration of the clinical licensing examination administered by the Council of Interstate Testing Agencies (CITA) may be awarded up to twelve hours of clinical continuing education per each renewal period.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:760(8) and (13).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Dentistry, LR 20:661 (June 1994), amended LR 21:570 (June 1995), LR 22:24 (January 1996), LR 22:1217 (December 1996), LR 23:1526 (November 1997), LR 24:1118 (June 1998), LR 25:510 (March 1999), LR 26:489 (March 2000), LR 30:2307 (October 2004), LR 30:2307 (October 2004), LR 32:245 (February 2006), LR 35:1237 (July 2009).

§1615. Approved Courses

A. Courses sponsored or approved by the following organizations shall be accepted by the board:

1. American Dental Association and its affiliate associations and societies;
2. American Dental Hygienists' Association and its affiliate associations and societies;
3. Academy of General Dentistry courses when set forth on official documentation;
4. National Dental Association and its affiliate societies;
5. colleges and universities with dental programs which are accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association when continuing education courses are held under their auspices;
6. armed services and veterans administration dental departments;
7. national, state and district associations and/or societies of all specialties in dentistry recognized by the board, and study clubs approved by said specialty societies;
8. American Heart Association as a provider of cardiopulmonary resuscitation courses (Course "C" Basic Life Support for the Health Care Provider).
9. The American Red Cross as a provider of the cardiopulmonary resuscitation course "Red Cross Professional Rescue Course."

B. The following standards represent minimum criteria to which component societies, as referred to in §1615.A.7 of this rule, should adhere to if they wish the board to allow the participants to receive continuing education credits.

1. Each sponsoring organization will be responsible for developing its own specific policies for accreditation of continuing education programs and/or activities, and awarding credit hours. These policies must be filed with the board. Satisfactory documentation evidencing approval of continuing education courses must be kept by the sponsoring or approving organization on file for a minimum of four years after the presentation of the course.

2. The program shall be under the continuous guidance of an administrative authority and/or individual responsible for its quality, content, and ongoing conduct.

- a. Each program or activity must have specific educational objectives or goals that relate to the dental as well as the overall health care needs of the public and/or the interest and needs of the dental profession. The content of the program will be directed at achieving the stated objectives or goals.

b. The instructor or instructors in charge of the program or activity must be qualified by education to provide instruction in the relevant subject matter.

c. Facilities selected for each activity must be appropriate to accomplish:

- i. the educational methods being used;
- ii. the stated educational objectives or goals.

C. Clinical credit will be given to programs dealing with the mechanical delivery of dental services as well as those addressing biological and psychological aspects of therapy such as pharmacology, nutrition, behavioral modification, etc., which are pertinent to the restoration and maintenance of oral health.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:760(8), and (13).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Dentistry, LR 20:662 (June 1994), amended LR 22:24 (January 1996), LR 24:1118 (June 1998), LR 35: (July 2009).

§1619. Violations

A. Violation Table	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
(1) First violation of continuing education	\$500.00	\$2,000.00
(a) For completion of 3/4th or more of the requirement	\$500.00	
(b) For completion of 1/2 to 3/4th of the requirement	\$1,000.00	
(c) For completion of 1/4th to 1/2 of the requirement	\$1,500.00	
(d) For completion of 0 to 1/4th of the requirement	\$2,000.00	
(2) Second violation	\$1,000.00	\$4,000.00

(3) All continuing education not completed on time shall be completed no later than August of the following calendar year and shall not count toward the continuing education requirements of the subsequent renewal period.

(4) A second violation of the continuing education requirements shall be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank, whereas the first violation will not.

(5) After a second violation of continuing education requirements, the licensee shall be placed on a minimum of a two-year period of probation, depending upon the number of hours not completed.

(6) A third violation of continuing education requirements will result in the suspension of a dental or dental hygiene license for a period of not less than six months.

(7) Any subsequent violation of continuing education requirements will result in the revocation of a dental or dental hygiene license.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R. S. 37:760(8)and (13).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Dentistry, LR 26:1613 (August 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1894 (November 2001).