



## Continuing Education (CE)

### Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Questions	Answers
<b>What is Continuing Education?</b>	Rule 610-X-10-.01 (4) of the ABN <u>Administrative Code</u> defines continuing education as “planned, organized learning experiences designed to augment the knowledge, skills and attitudes for the enhancement of the practice of nursing to the end of improving health care to the public.”
<b>What content is acceptable as continuing education for license renewal?</b>	Acceptable content (610-X-10-.03) must be beyond the basic educational level for entry into practice of the individual licensee and includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinical technology, procedures, and nursing implications</li> <li>• Specialty areas of nursing practice</li> <li>• Nursing practice related to care of the patient</li> <li>• Administration, management, and supervision in health care delivery</li> <li>• Social, legal, and ethical aspects of nursing</li> <li>• Nursing education</li> <li>• Nursing research, theory, and practice issues</li> <li>• Quality improvement and management, accrediting standards, and processes</li> <li>• Academic credit earned from liberal arts, sciences, business, and general education courses obtained after initial licensure from an institution accredited by an educational accrediting body</li> <li>• Professional conduct</li> </ul>
<b>Are there content requirements for continuing education?</b>	Beginning October 1, 2002, as a part of the 24 Board-approved or Board recognized continuing education contact hours for license renewal [610-X-4-.08]: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners (CRNPs) and Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs) with prescriptive authority shall earn six (6) contact hours of pharmacology content specific to prescriptive practice in the approved area for collaborative practice.</li> <li>2. Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs) shall meet continuing education requirements specified for renewal of the</li> </ol>

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	<p>registered nurse license.</p> <p>3. Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) shall earn six (6) contact hours of pharmacology specific to the practice area of anesthesia and the scope of practice of the CRNA.</p> <p>4. A registered nurse or licensed practical nurse licensed by examination during the earning period shall, prior to the first license renewal, earn four (4) contact hours of Board-provided continuing education related to Board functions, the Nurse Practice Act, regulations, professional conduct, and accountability.</p>
<p><b>I need to take the mandatory class. I heard it was offered online. Where can I find this class?</b></p>	<p>Follow the outlined steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Go to the Alabama Board of Nursing web site, <a href="http://www.abn.alabama.gov">www.abn.alabama.gov</a>.</li> <li>2. After entering the site, select online courses.</li> <li>3. Before selecting to a class to view: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Test your system to determine readiness to view online courses.</li> <li>b. Review Frequently Asked Questions; including system requirements.</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. Select View Current CE Courses offered by ABN. You will be required to log in at this point. Log in requires your Alabama nursing license number and the last four digits of your social security number as your pin number.</li> <li>5. Select and view.</li> <li>6. If you are required to complete the class, you must view each segment of the class to earn the four (4.0) contact hours of continuing education.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Can anyone take the class and receive credit or is it available only for nurses who must complete the class?</b></p>	<p>Any Alabama licensed nurse may view the online class and receive credit. If not licensed, you cannot receive credit. You can view the classes multiple times, but credit hours will be earned for only one viewing. As sections are updated, you can receive credit hours for viewing the updated sections</p>
<p><b>How can I earn continuing education for license renewal?</b></p>	<p>Continuing education can be earned from activity(ies) provided or approved by an Alabama Board of Nursing approved provider of continuing education or a Board-recognized provider of continuing education.</p>
<p><b>Will I receive credit for continuing education activities not obtained from a Board-approved provider?</b></p>	<p>Yes, if the continuing education is received from a recognized provider [610-X-10-.04(2)b]. Continuing education must be from a Board-approved or Board-recognized provider.</p>
<p><b>How many contact hours</b></p>	<p>To renew a license on active status to practice nursing in Alabama, registered nurses and licensed practical nurses</p>

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<b>of continuing education are required for license renewal for registered nurses and licensed practical nurses?</b>	must earn 24 contact hours from Board-approved or Board-recognized continuing education providers [Chapter 610-X-4-.08]. If licensed by examination, reinstatement, or endorsement during the earning period, the contact hours are prorated. A prorated chart is on the Board's web site, <a href="http://www.abn.alabama.gov">www.abn.alabama.gov</a> .
<b>What is a contact hour?</b>	A contact hour is a unit of measurement of organized learning experience lasting fifty (50) minutes [610-X-2-.10(5)]. When attending a conference, workshop, or course that lasts a full day, contact hours are calculated on the basis of time spent in class/at presentations. Time spent for breaks, lunches, and general meetings is not counted as part of the contact hours.
<b>What is the earning period for accruing continuing education?</b>	Continuing Education Earning Period: Two-year period of time during which contact hours shall be accrued. The license renewal year for licensed practical nurses occurs every odd year. The license renewal year for registered nurses occurs every even year. Effective January 1, 2009, the earning period for registered nurses shall be the same as the license period. Effective January 1, 2008, the earning period for licensed practical nurses shall be the same as the license period.
<b>If I earn more than twenty-four contact hours of continuing education during the earning period, can the hours be used for the next renewal?</b>	No, contact hours cannot be carried over from one earning period to another.
<b>Does the Board maintain a record of my continuing education?</b>	Yes, nurses may view their individual online CE record at the Board's website, <a href="http://www.abn.alabama.gov">www.abn.alabama.gov</a> . Alabama Board of Nursing approved providers submit electronic records to the Board of continuing education provided to licensed Alabama nurses [610-X-10-.06 (2) (e)]. The individual online CE record reflects continuing education obtained from Board-approved providers for the current earning period.
<b>Can I edit my online continuing education record?</b>	Yes, nurses may view their individual online CE records at the Board's website, <a href="http://www.abn.alabama.gov">www.abn.alabama.gov</a> . Alabama Board of Nursing approved providers submit electronic records to the Board of continuing education provided to licensed Alabama nurses [610-X-10-.06 (2) (e)]. The individual online CE record reflects continuing education obtained from Board-approved providers for the current earning period.

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<b>My individual online</b>	Contact the continuing education provider. The provider will be able to tell you whether the class has been submitted

<p><b>continuing education record does not list all the classes I have taken from Alabama Board of Nursing approved providers. What should I do?</b></p>	<p>to the Board. The provider will follow up with the ABN to resolve the problem if necessary.</p>
<p><b>Will continuing education courses/activities attended in another state count toward license renewal?</b></p>	<p>Courses/activities attended by licensees in another state which are approved by another board of nursing are considered to be acceptable continuing education activities. The nurse will need to add these classes to his/her individual online continuing education record.</p>
<p><b>Will the Board of Nursing accept continuing education credit granted by another profession?</b></p>	<p>The Board has specified that selected categories of courses or activities which have undergone appropriate review by other State regulatory agencies and professions are acceptable. Examples of acceptable categories include, but are not limited to, courses approved by the Board of Dental Examiners, the Alabama State Bar, the Board of Pharmacy, the Board of Social Work Examiners, the Board of Education, the Alabama Nursing Home Administration Board, the Psychology Examiners Board, and courses classified as Category I Continuing Medical Education by the American Medical Association.</p>
<p><b>What records/documents are required to substantiate earned continuing education contact hours? Who keeps the documents?</b></p>	<p>The nurse's Individual CE Record on the ABN website. Certificates, transcripts, or other documentation of attendance at, or completion of, continuing education activities may substantiate contact hours for license renewal. Nurses are responsible for maintaining their own continuing education records for at least four (4) years after completion of the approved CE activity.</p>
<p><b>How many contact hours of continuing education are required for reinstatement of a lapsed license?</b></p>	<p>Applicants who request reinstatement of a lapsed license must show evidence of having earned 24 approved continuing education contact hours within 24 months preceding the date of the application. Nurses whose licenses are reinstated shall accrue for license renewal one contact hour for each calendar month remaining in the license period after reinstatement. Contact hours earned for reinstatement of a lapsed license cannot be used toward the continuing education requirement for the next license renewal period.</p>