

Chapter PT 9

CONTINUING EDUCATION

PT 9.01 Authority and purpose.
 PT 9.02 Definitions.
 PT 9.03 Continuing education requirements.

PT 9.04 Standards for approval.
 PT 9.05 Proof of attendance at continuing education programs.

PT 9.01 Authority and purpose. The rules in this chapter are adopted by the board pursuant to the authority delegated by ss. 15.085 (5) (b), 227.11 (2) and 448.55 (3), Stats., and govern required biennial continuing education of licensees of the board.

History: CR 03-020: cr. Register April 2004 No. 580, eff. 5-1-04.

PT 9.02 Definitions. In this chapter:

(1) "CEU" means continuing education unit in physical therapy.

(2) "Continuing education" means planned, organized learning activities designed to maintain, improve, or expand a licensee's knowledge and skills relevant to the enhancement of practice, education, or theory development to improve the safety and welfare of the public.

(3) "Hour of continuing education" means not less than 55 minutes spent by a licensee in actual attendance at and completion of an approved continuing education activity.

(4) "Licensee" means a person licensed to practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant in this state.

History: CR 03-020: cr. Register April 2004 No. 580, eff. 5-1-04.

PT 9.03 Continuing education requirements.

(1) Unless granted a postponement or waiver under sub. (8), every physical therapist shall complete at least 30 hours of board-approved continuing education in each biennial registration period, as specified in s. 448.55 (3), Stats.

(2) Unless granted a postponement or waiver under sub. (8), every physical therapist assistant shall complete at least 20 hours of board-approved continuing education in each biennial registration period, as specified in s. 448.55 (3), Stats.

(3) Continuing education hours may apply only to the registration period in which the hours are acquired. If a license has lapsed, the board may grant permission to apply continuing education hours acquired after lapse of the license to a previous biennial period of licensure during which required continuing education was not acquired. In no case may continuing education hours be applied to more than one biennial period.

(4) Unless granted a postponement or waiver under sub. (8), a licensee who fails to meet the continuing education requirements by the renewal deadline shall cease and desist from practice.

(5) During the time between initial licensure and commencement of a full 2-year licensure period new licensees shall not be required to meet continuing education requirements.

(6) Applicants from other states applying for a license to practice as a physical therapist under s. 448.53 (3), Stats., shall submit proof of completion of at least 30 hours of continuing education approved by the board within 2 years prior to application.

(7) Applicants from other states applying for a license to practice as a physical therapist assistant under s. 448.53 (3), Stats., shall submit proof of completion of at least 20 hours of continuing education approved by the board within 2 years prior to application.

(8) A licensee may apply to the board for a postponement or waiver of the requirements of this section on grounds of prolonged illness or disability, or on other grounds constituting extreme hardship. The board shall consider each application individually on its merits, and the board may grant a postponement, partial waiver or total waiver as deemed appropriate.

Note: Under 2001 Wisconsin Act 70, continuing education requirements do not become effective until the licensing period beginning November 1, 2005 and ending on October 31, 2007.

History: CR 03-020: cr. Register April 2004 No. 580, eff. 5-1-04.

PT 9.04 Standards for approval. (1) To be approved for credit, a continuing education program shall meet all of the following criteria:

(a) The program constitutes an organized program of learning which contributes directly to the professional competency of the licensee.

(b) The program pertains to subject matters which integrally relate to the practice of the profession.

(c) The program is conducted by individuals who have specialized education, training or experience by reason of which the individuals should be considered qualified concerning the subject matter of the activity or program.

(d) The program fulfills pre-established goals and objectives.

(e) The program provides proof of attendance by licensees.

(2) Both class I and class II continuing education activities described in tables PT 9.04 - 1 and PT 9.04 - 2 qualify for continuing education hours, except as follows:

(a) Physical therapists shall acquire at least 20 hours in class I activities.

(b) Physical therapist assistants shall acquire at least 15 hours in class I activities.

(c) Both physical therapists and physical therapist assistants shall acquire at least 4 class I hours in ethics and jurisprudence.

**TABLE PT 9.04—1
CLASS I ACTIVITIES**

(a) Attendance at academic credit courses.	10 hours per semester credit.
(b) Attendance at seminars, workshops, lectures, symposia and professional conferences which are approved by recognized health-related organizations, including the American Physical Therapy Association, the Wisconsin Physical Therapy Association, the Arthritis Foundation, and other recognized CEU granting organizations.	10 hours per CEU.
(c) Satisfactory completion of a self-study course or courses offered through electronic media approved by recognized health-related organizations, including the American Physical Therapy Association, the Wisconsin Physical Therapy Association, the Arthritis Foundation, and other recognized CEU granting organizations.	10 hours per CEU.
(d) Certification of clinical specialization by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties or other recognized clinical specialization certifying organization.	12 hours.
(e) Authorship of a book in physical therapy or a related professional area.	12 hours.
(f) Publication of one or more chapters of a book in physical therapy or a related professional area.	6 hours.
(g) Authorship of a presented scientific poster, scientific platform presentation or published article undergoing peer review.	6 hours.
(h) Participation as a presenter in continuing education courses, workshops, seminars or symposia which have been approved by a recognized health-related organization and which have been approved for continuing education units. Note: No additional hours are given for subsequent presentations of the same content.	10 hours per CEU.
(i) Participating in a clinical residency program credentialed by the American Physical Therapy Association or other recognized credentialing organization.	5 hours per week of residency to a maximum of 25 hours.

**TABLE PT 9.04—2
CLASS II ACTIVITIES**

(a) Attendance at employer-provided continuing education, including video and non-interactive online courses.	1 hour per contact hour of attendance.
(b) Publication of an article in a non-peer-reviewed publication.	4 hours.
(c) Development of alternative media materials, including computer software, programs and video instructional material.	6 hours.
(d) Serving as a clinical instructor for an accredited physical therapist or physical therapist assistant educational program.	1 hour per contact hour to a maximum of 4 hours.
(e) Participating in a physical therapy study group consisting of 2 or more physical therapists or physical therapist assistants.	A maximum of 1 hour.
(f) Participating in a residency or as a mentor in a formal nonacademic mentorship.	1 hour per 8 contact hours to a maximum of 4 hours.
(g) Attendance at a scientific poster session, lecture, panel or symposium which does not meet the requirements of Class I.	1 hour per contact hour to a maximum of 2 hours.
(h) Serving as a delegate to the American Physical Therapy Association House of Delegates, on a professional committee, board or task force.	A maximum of 1 hour.

(3) The following activities shall not be awarded continuing activity credit:

- (a) Meetings for the purpose of policy decisions.
- (b) Non-educational meetings at annual association, chapter or organization meetings.
- (c) Entertainment or recreational meetings or activities.
- (d) Visiting exhibits.

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PT 9.05 Proof of attendance at continuing education programs. Applicants for renewal shall be required to certify their attendance at required continuing education programs. The board may conduct a random audit of all licensees on a biennial basis for compliance with continuing education requirements, and shall audit any licensee who is under investigation by the board for alleged misconduct.

History: CR 03-020: cr. Register April 2004 No. 580, eff. 5-1-04.