New Mexico Continuing Education for Behavioral Health Providers

Many behavioral health professions in New Mexico require an active professional license to practice. To maintain licensure, most New Mexico behavioral health licensing boards require licensees to complete continuing education (CE) activities as part of the license renewal process.

Depending on the profession, some boards allow a portion of required continuing education hours to be earned through other activities beyond structured trainings and workshops. These may include self-directed learning, independent study, professional presentations, publications, committee service, leadership activities, or other forms of professional development. The extent to which these activities may be applied toward CE requirements varies by board and credential type.

Activities such as learning collaboratives, ECHOs, professional workgroups, planning initiatives, committee participation, presentations, and other practice-related experiences may provide professional development opportunities that could align with certain continuing education categories. However, eligibility for CEU credit depends on the specific requirements of the licensing or credentialing board, as well as the content and structure of the activity.

The following information are the general guidelines of each licensing board for social workers, psychologists, counselors, and other behavioral health professionals. Providers should retain documentation of participation and consult their board directly if they have questions about whether a particular activity may be applied toward CE requirements.

NEW MEXICO BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

Continuing Education Credit Requirements

Required hours: 30 hours of continuing education will be required every 2 years.

Hour Types: 23 of those hours must be approved by the board, which are approved by NASW, ASWB, NBCC, NM Counseling and Therapy Board, and NM Psychology Board. 6 of the 30 hours must be in the subject area of cultural awareness. 3 of the 30 hours shall be in professional ethics.

Proof of participation in or presentation of continuing education activity must be submitted if the licensee is audited. All continuing education hours must be earned during the current 2-year renewal period of July 1 thru June 30. Please refer to 16.63.12 for more information regarding continuing education.

16.63.12.14 CONTINUING EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL DISCRETION: The social worker may choose up to ten (10) hours per renewal period which is self-directed. The social worker may select education programs, readings and audio or video-taped materials which are in the domain of social work. Preparation time, not to exceed the length of the presentation and time accumulated in presenting a social work seminar or workshop is included in this section. Documentation of discretionary continuing education hours will be in accordance with guidelines established by the board of social work examiners. Activities which include personal scope such as sports, hobbies, etc. are not acceptable for credit nor is personal therapy. The social worker seeking re-licensure shall report continuing education hours directly to the board upon application for license renewal. Approval of credit under this section is within the board's discretion.

New Mexico Board of Social Work Examiners Contact Information

Phone: (505) 476-4622
Email: socialworkboard@rld.nm.gov
Help Desk: RLD.SWHelpDesk@rld.nm.gov

Further information about continuing education requirements for social workers in New Mexico can be found here.

NEW MEXICO STATE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGIST EXAMINERS

Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Requirements for Psychologists

Required hours. The board requires 40 hours of CPE for licensed psychologists and psychologist associates to be completed every 2 years. For conditional prescribing and unrestricted prescribing psychologists, the board requires 60 hours of CPE every 2 years.

Program types. CPE credits are divided into two categories depending on the design and approval process. Psychologists must obtain at least 15 of their 40 hours every 2 years in category I. Any additional hours to complete the 40-hour requirement may be from category I or category II. A minimum of 2 hours every 2 years from either category must be in the area of cultural diversity or health disparities. A minimum of 4 hours every 2 years from either category I or II must be on the topic of race, ethnicity, systemic racism, structural inequality, poverty, or the intersection of variables that impact marginalized communities. A minimum of 4 hours every 2 years from either category must be in the area of ethics. For conditional prescribing or unrestricted prescribing psychologists, 40 hours every 2 years out of the 60-hour CPE requirement must be in the area of psychopharmacology or psychopharmacotherapy.

CPE PROGRAM CATEGORIES I AND II

Category I includes formally designed educational programs with monitored attendance. Eligible activities include workshops, seminars, classes, and graduate-level courses offered or approved by accredited institutions or recognized professional organizations. It also includes certain board participation activities, advanced certifications, and qualifying online education programs where attendance is verified.

Category II includes high-quality, relevant learning experiences outside of formal presentations and classes. Eligible activities include independent or home study programs, professional presentations, publications, authoring or editing books, teaching qualifying courses, and participation in professional association boards, offices, or committees related to ethics, professional standards, or practice-related skills.

For more specific guidance on categories I and II CPEs, please review:
https://www.srca.nm.gov/parts/title16/16.022.0009.html

New Mexico State Board of Psychologist Examiners Contact Information

Phone: (505) 476-4622
Email: psychologist.examiners@rld.nm.gov
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COUNSELING AND THERAPY PRACTICE BOARD

Counseling and Therapy Practice Board provides licensing for the following professions: Professional clinical mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, professional art therapists, professional mental health counselors, and registered mental health counselors, registered independent counselors, and licensed mental health counselors, alcohol and drug abuse counselors, alcohol abuse counselors, drug abuse counselors, and substance abuse trainees.

To renew licenses for the next licensure renewal period, all registered and licensed professionals will be required to submit proof of 40 hours of continuing education over a 2-year period. Licensees may obtain Continuing Education Units (CEUs) however they would like. All licensees must obtain 12 CEU hours of ethics.

Independent licensed professionals who want to provide supervision must apply for the Approved Clinical Supervisor Designation and complete 3 hours specific to counseling and therapy supervision and 6 specific to ethics in supervision.

More information on the Counseling and Therapy Practice Board: https://www.rld.nm.gov/boards-and-commissions/individual-boards-and-commissions/counseling-and-therapy-practice/instructors-training-requirements-and-continuing-education/

More information about acceptable continuing education courses: https://www.srca.nm.gov/wp-content/uploads/attachments/16.27.16amend.pdf

New Mexico Counseling and Therapy Practice Board Contact Information
Email: counseling.board@rld.nm.gov
Help Desk: rld.cthelpdesk@rld.nm.gov
Phone: 505-476-4622

NEW MEXICO CREDENTIALING BOARD FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS (NMCBBHP)

NMCBBHP certifies the following credentials: Prevention, Alcohol and Drug Counselors, Clinical Supervisors, Certified Peer Support Worker, Family Peer Support Worker, Wraparound Facilitator, or the Youth Peer Support Specialist certification.

Continuing education hour requirements differ based on credential type and must be obtained through CE-approved providers or specific groups. For a list of approved providers and groups check here: https://nmcbbhp.org/ceu-provider/

Certified Prevention Intern (CPI) and Prevention Specialist (PS)

Thirty-four (34) hours must be in Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug (ATOD) Prevention or General Prevention hours. Six (6) hours must be in Prevention Ethics and Responsibilities.

Senior Certified Prevention Specialist (SCPS)
Twenty-eight (28) hours must be in ATOD Prevention or General Prevention hours. Six (6) hours must be in Prevention Ethics and Responsibilities. Six (6) hours must be Leadership, Management, or Supervisor Skills related to the Behavioral Health Field.

Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor (CADC)
Thirty-four (34) hours must be in Counseling and/or Behavioral Health-related hours. Six (6) hours must be in Counseling, Legal or Professional Ethics and Responsibilities.

Certified Clinical Supervisor (CS)

Thirty-one (31) hours must be in Counseling and/or Behavioral Health hours. Six (6) hours must be in Professional Ethics and Responsibilities. Three (3) hours must be Leadership, Management, or Supervisor Skills related to the Behavioral Health Field.

Certified Peer Support Worker (CPSW)

Six (6) hours must be of professional ethics and responsibilities. Six (6) hours must be in Cultural Competency. Twenty-eight (28) hours must be in Behavioral Health, Social Work hours, and/or related to peer support services.

Certified Peer Support Worker with the Supportive Housing endorsement (CPSW/CSHPS)

Six (6) hours must be of professional ethics and responsibilities. Six (6) hours must be in Cultural Competency. Ten (10) hours must be on topics associated with housing and/or supportive services such as; supportive housing, Motivational Interviewing, Harm Reduction, Trauma-Informed or Housing Quality Standards. Eighteen (18) hours must be in Behavioral Health, Social Work, and/or related to peer support services.

Certified Wraparound Facilitator (CWF)

Six (6) hours must be of professional ethics and responsibilities and Cultural Competency. Twelve (12) hours must be related to the performance domains of Wraparound Values and Elements, Engagement; Action Planning; Teaming; Safety Planning; Coordination; Prioritization and Mobilization of Time and Other Resources. Twenty-two (22) hours must be in the field of Behavioral Health.

Certified Family Peer Support Worker (CFPSW)

Six (6) hours must be in professional ethics and responsibilities. Six (6) hours must be in Cultural Competency. Twenty-eight (28) hours must be related to the child-serving system such as children's mental health, special education, protective services, juvenile justice services, etc.

For more information on credentialing and renewal please view the NMCBBHP website: https://nmcbbhp.org/

New Mexico Credentialing Board for Behavioral Health Professionals (NMCBBHP) Contact Information

Email: info@nmcbbhp.org
Phone: 505-974-5090

This summary was prepared by the Behavioral Health Technical Assistance Center team at the UNM Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Division of Community Behavioral Health.

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