

## Chapter PT 9

### CONTINUING EDUCATION

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**PT 9.01 Authority and purpose.** The rules in this chapter are adopted by the board pursuant to the authority delegated by ss. 15.08 (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; CR 12-002: am. Register August 2012 No. 680, eff. 9-1-12.

**PT 9.02 Definitions.** In this chapter:

(1) “Contact hour” means not less than 50 minutes a licensee spends in actual attendance at or completion of acceptable continuing education.

(1m) “Continuing competence” means the ongoing self assessment, development and implementation of a personal learning plan that evaluates professional knowledge, skill, behavior, and abilities related to the practice of 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.

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

(5) “Remedial education” means education undertaken in lieu of or as part of discipline for the purpose of fulfilling a gap in the licensee’s competence.

**History:** CR 03-020: cr. Register April 2004 No. 580, eff. 5-1-04; CR 08-049: r. and recr. (1), r. (3) Register November 2008 No. 635, eff. 12-1-08; CR 12-002: cr. (1m), (5) Register August 2012 No. 680, eff. 9-1-12.

**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. Four of the required 30 hours shall be in the area of ethics and jurisprudence.

(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. Four of the required 20 hours shall be in the area of ethics and jurisprudence.

(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 educa-

tion 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; CR 08-049: am. (1) and (2) Register November 2008 No. 635, eff. 12-1-08.

**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) The continuing education activities described in table PT 9.04 qualify for continuing education hours.

**TABLE PT 9.04**

ACTIVITY	CONTACT HOUR LIMITS
(a) Successful completion of relevant academic coursework.	No limit. [10 contact hours = one semester credit; 6.6 contact hours = quarter credit]
(b) Attendance at seminars, workshops, lectures, symposia, and professional conferences which are sponsored or approved by acceptable health-related or other organizations including the American Physical Therapy Association and the Wisconsin Physical Therapy Association.	No limit.
(c) Successful completion of a self-study course or courses offered via electronic or other means which are sponsored or approved by acceptable health-related or other organizations including the American Physical Therapy Association and the Wisconsin Physical Therapy Association.	No limit.
(d) Earning a clinical specialization from the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties or other recognized clinical specialization certifying organizations.	Up to 12 contact hours for initial certification or for recertification.
(e) Authorship of a book about physical therapy or a related professional area.	Up to 12 contact hours for each book.
(f) Authorship of one or more chapters of a book about physical therapy or a related professional area.	Up to 6 contact hours for each chapter.
(g) Authorship of a presented scientific poster, scientific platform presentation, or published article.	Up to 6 contact hours for each poster, platform presentation, or refereed article.
(h) Presenting seminars, continuing education courses, workshops, lectures, or symposia which have been approved by recognized health-related organizations including the American Physical Therapy Association and the Wisconsin Physical Therapy Association. <b>Note:</b> No additional hours are given for subsequent presentations of the same content. Substantive course revisions may be counted but are limited to the extent of the revision.	No limit.
(i) Teaching in an academic course in physical therapy as a guest lecturer. <b>Note:</b> No additional hours are given for subsequent presentations of the same content. Substantive course revisions may be counted but are limited to the extent of the revision.	No limit. [10 contact hours = one semester credit; 6.6 contact hours = one quarter credit]
(j) Teaching in an academic course in physical therapy. <b>Note:</b> No additional hours are given for subsequent presentations of the same content. Substantive course revisions may be counted but are not limited to the extent of the revision.	No limit. [10 contact hours = one semester credit; 6.6 contact hours = one quarter credit]
(k) Successful completion in a clinical residency program credentialed by the American Physical Therapy Association or other recognized credentialing organization.	No limit.
(l) Attending employer-provided continuing education, including video and non-interactive on-line courses.	Up to 15 contact hours for physical therapists. Up to 10 contact hours for physical therapist assistants.
(m) Authoring an article in a non-refereed publication.	Up to 5 contact hours.
(n) Developing alternative media materials, including computer software, programs, and video instructional material.	1 contact hour per product. Up to 5 contact hours.
(o) Serving as a clinical instructor for internships with an accredited physical therapist or physical therapist assistant educational program.	Up to 15 contact hours for physical therapists. Up to 10 contact hours for physical therapist assistants.
(p) Serving as a supervisor for students fulfilling clinical observation requirements.	1 contact hour per contact hour with students, up to 5 contact hours.

**TABLE PT 9.04 (Continued)**

ACTIVITY	CONTACT HOUR LIMITS
(q) Participating in a physical therapy study group of 2 or more physical therapists or physical therapist assistants or in an interdisciplinary study group of members of at least 2 disciplines meeting on a topic relevant to the participants' work.	Up to 2 contact hours per study group.
(r) Participating as a resident or as a mentor in a formal nonacademic mentorship.	1 contact hour per each 8 contact hours for both the resident and mentor, up to 5 contact hours.
(s) Attending a scientific poster session, lecture panel, or a symposium.	Up to 2 contact hours.
(t) Serving as a delegate to the American Physical Therapy Association House of Delegates, on a professional committee, board, or task force.	Up to 5 contact hours.

**(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.

**History:** CR 03-020: cr. Register April 2004 No. 580, eff. 5-1-04; CR 08-049: renum. (2) (intro.) to be (2) and am., r. (2) (a) to (c), Table 9.04-1 and Table 9.04-2,

cr. Table 9.04 Register November 2008 No. 635, eff. 12-1-08.

**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.