

Sec. 20-280-26. Delineation of qualifying continuing professional education programs

(a) Terms used in sections 20-280-25 through 20-280-27, inclusive, of these regulations shall be defined as follows:

(1) “Continuing professional education year” (“CPE year”) means a period commencing on July 1 and ending on June 30 of the succeeding year.

(2) “Acceptable CPE credit” means credit for programs which are determined by the board to meet the requirements of these regulations and which are properly reported to the board under the provisions of these regulations.

(3) “Acceptable formal education” means formal programs of learning which contribute to professional competence to practice public accounting and which meet the standards prescribed by these regulations.

(4) “License” means the license issued under section 20-281d of the general statutes.

(5) “Program” means both formal group and formal self-study programs.

(6) “Group program” means an educational process designed to permit a participant to learn a given subject through interaction with an instructor and other participants. If a program complies with the standards in these regulations, it becomes a “formal” group program.

(7) “Self-study program” means an educational process designed to permit a participant to learn a given subject without major interaction with an instructor, and where the sponsor of the program must provide the participant with a certificate upon evidence of satisfactory completion, such as an examination, and must comply with the standards in these regulations.

(8) “Instructional design” means a teaching plan that considers the organization and interaction of the materials as well as the method of presentation such as lecture, seminar, workshop, or programmed instruction.

(9) “Interactive self-study programs” means programs designed to use interactive learning methodologies that simulate classroom learning processes by employing software, other courseware or administrative systems that provide significant ongoing interactive feedback to the participant regarding his learning process.

(b) The overriding consideration in determining whether a specific program qualifies as acceptable continuing professional education is that it be a formal program of learning which contributes directly to the professional competence of an individual licensed to practice public accounting under the provisions of Chapter 389 of the General Statutes and these regulations. The following shall qualify as acceptable continuing education programs, provided the standards set forth in these regulations are maintained:

(1) Professional development programs of recognized national and state accounting organizations.

(2) Technical sessions at meetings of recognized national and state accounting organizations and their chapters or other subdivisions.

(3) Courses in subject matters included in subsection (c) of this section, taken at universities or colleges which are accredited by the Regional Accrediting Commission subscribing to the national policies and procedures established by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, or a university or college of equivalent accreditation as determined

by the Board,

(4) Formal organized in-firm educational programs.

(5) Programs of other accounting, industrial or professional organizations which are recognized by the Board.

(6) Formal correspondence or other individual study programs which require registration and provide evidence of satisfactory completion.

(c) The following general subject matters are acceptable so long as they contribute to the professional knowledge and competence of the applicant:

(1) Accounting and Auditing

(2) Taxation

(3) Management Science

(4) Computer Science

(5) Communications Arts

(6) Mathematics, Statistics, Probability, and Quantitative Applications in Business

(7) Economics

(8) Business Law

(9) Functional Fields of Business, including Finance, Production, Marketing, Personnel Relations, and Business Management and Organization

(10) Behavioral Science

(11) Social Environment of Business

(12) Specialized Areas of Industry;

(13) Management of an Accounting Practice; e.g., Engagement Letters, Fee Structures, Personnel, etc.

(14) Courses in such other disciplines as may be acceptable to the state board of accountancy. Areas other than those listed above may be deemed acceptable if the applicant can demonstrate to the board that they contribute to his professional competence. The responsibility for substantiating that a particular program is acceptable and meets the requirements of these regulations rests solely upon the applicant.

(d) The following standards for development of continuing professional education programs must be met to insure acceptance of the program for credit:

(1) The program should contribute to the professional competence of participants.

(2) The objectives of the program should be stated and should specify the level of knowledge the participant should have obtained or the level of competence he should be able to demonstrate upon completing the program.

(3) The education or experience prerequisites for the program should be stated.

(4) Programs should be developed by individuals qualified in the subject matter and in instructional design.

(5) Program content should be current.

(6) Programs should be reviewed by a qualified person(s) other than the preparer(s) to ensure compliance with the above standards.

(7) Sponsors are the organizations responsible for presenting programs but are not necessarily program developers. It is the responsibility of sponsors to see that their programs comply with all the standards of these regulations.

(e) The following standards for presentation of continuing professional education

programs must be met to insure acceptance of the program for credit:

(1) Participants should be informed in advance of objectives, prerequisites, experience level, content, advance preparation, teaching methods, and CPE contact hours credit.

(2) Instructors should be qualified both with respect to program content and teaching methods used. A qualified instructor or discussion leader is anyone whose background, education or experience makes it appropriate for him to lead a discussion on the subject matter of the particular program. The program sponsor has the obligation for selecting and assigning qualified instructors for the continuing professional education credits claimed by participants to be accepted by the board.

(3) Program sponsors should encourage participation only by individuals with appropriate education and/or experience.

(4) The number of participants and physical facilities should be consistent with the teaching method (s) specified.

(5) All programs should include some means for evaluating quality.

(6) In order to support the reports that may be required of participants, the sponsors of group or self-study programs should retain for three years

(A) appropriate records of attendance or participation,

(B) outline of the course,

(C) date(s),

(D) location,

(E) instructor (s), and

(F) number of CPE contact hours.

(f) The following standards are applicable for measuring credit for continuing professional education programs:

(1) All programs should be measured in terms of fifty-minute contact hours. The shortest recognized program should consist of one contact hour. Only contact hours are allowed. Preparation time can be claimed only if the participant was required to provide evidence of having completed the advance preparation and the program sponsored monitored and collected such evidence and recorded such fact on the attendance record. Travel time cannot be claimed. A participant must attend substantially an entire course to be granted entire credit for the course. If a record of registration and attendance is not maintained by the sponsor, the participant must be able to prove registration and attendance.

(2) When an instructor or discussion leader serves at a program for which participants receive CPE credit and at a level that contributed to his or her professional competence, credit should be given to him for preparation and presentation time measured in terms of contact hours. For the first time they present a program, instructors or discussion leaders should receive contact hour credit for actual preparation hours up to 2 times the class contact hours. For repetitious presentations the instructor or discussion leader should receive no credit unless he can demonstrate that the subject matter involved was changed sufficiently to require significant additional study or research. Credit for presentations and/or preparations may not exceed twenty (20) hours in any CPE year.

(3) The amount of credit to be allowed for formal self-study programs, as defined in subsection (a) of this section, including taped study programs, is to be recommended by the program sponsor based upon the average completion time under appropriate "field tests".

Applicants claiming credit for such formal self-study programs are required to obtain evidence of satisfactory completion of the program from the sponsor. Credit will be allowed in the CPE year in which the program is completed.

(4) Credit may be claimed for published articles and books provided they contribute to the professional competence of the applicant. The amount of credit so awarded will be determined by the board. Credit for preparation of such publications may be given on a self-declaration basis up to ten (10) hours in any CPE year. In exceptional circumstances an applicant may be allowed additional credit by submitting the article(s) or book (s) to the board with an explanation of the circumstances which may justify a greater credit.

(5) Credit for courses at accredited universities or colleges will be allowed as follows:

(A) Graduate-level credit courses:

- (i) Fifteen (15) hours for each credit hour of a semester course.
- (ii) Twelve (12) hours for each credit hour of a trimester course.
- (iii) Ten (10) hours for each credit hour of a quarter course.

(B) Undergraduate-level credit course:

- (i) Seven and one-half (7 1/2) hours for each credit hour of a semester course.
- (ii) Six hours (6) for each credit hour of a trimester course.
- (iii) Five (5) hours for each credit hour of a quarter course.

(C) Non-credit courses: credit shall be allowed provided the course meets the standards set forth in subsection (b) above.

(Adopted effective March 19, 1996; Amended December 2, 2005; Amended November 19, 2015)