

TITLE 21 – OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

SUBCHAPTER 54 – NORTH CAROLINA PSYCHOLOGY BOARD

Notice is hereby given in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.2 that the North Carolina Psychology Board intends to amend the rule cited as 21 NCAC 54 .2104.

Proposed Effective Date: January 1, 2013

Public Hearing:

Date: December 2, 2010

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Comfort Suites, 7619 Thorndike Road, Greensboro, NC 27409

Reason for Proposed Action: To change the continuing education requirements for individuals renewing their licenses for the 2014-16 biennium and thereafter. North Carolina's mandate for CE is appreciably below the national average, and the Board believes that the current requirement is inadequate in a rapidly evolving profession.

Procedure by which a person can object to the agency on a proposed rule: Objections to this Rule may be submitted, in writing, to Rebecca Osborne, Communication Specialist, NC Psychology Board, 895 State Farm Road, Suite 101, Boone, NC 28607; email to Rebecca@ncpsychologyboard.org; fax to Rebecca Osborne at (828) 265-8611; or at the public hearing. Persons wishing to make oral presentations at the hearing are requested to notify Ms. Osborne of such no later than 5:00 p.m. on November 29, 2010.

Comments may be submitted to: Rebecca Osborne, NC Psychology Board, 895 State Farm Road, Suite 101, Boone, NC 28607; fax (828) 265-8611; email rebecca@ncpsychologyboard.org

Comment period ends: December 2, 2010

Procedure for Subjecting a Proposed Rule to Legislative Review: If an objection is not resolved prior to the adoption of the rule, a person may also submit written objections to the Rules Review Commission after the adoption of the Rule. If the Rules Review Commission receives written and signed objections after the adoption of the Rule in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.3(b2) from 10 or more persons clearly requesting review by the legislature and the Rules Review Commission approves the rule, the rule will become effective as provided in G.S. 150B-21.3(b1). The Commission will receive written objections until 5:00 p.m. on the day following the day the Commission approves the rule. The Commission will receive those objections by mail, delivery service, hand delivery, or facsimile transmission. If you have any further questions concerning the submission of objections to the Commission, please call a Commission staff attorney at 919-431-3000.

Fiscal Impact:

- State
Local
Substantial Economic Impact (>=\$3,000,000)
None

SECTION .2100 - RENEWAL

21 NCAC 54 .2104 CONTINUING EDUCATION (AS OF JANUARY 1, 2013)

(a) The purpose of continuing education is to provide for the continuing professional education of all psychologists licensed by the North Carolina Psychology Board consistent with the purpose of the Board which is to protect the public from the practice of psychology by unqualified persons and from unprofessional conduct by persons licensed to practice psychology.

(b) This Rule applies to all individuals licensed by the Board who choose to renew their licenses. Compliance with this Rule shall be is a condition for license renewal. A license shall be suspended automatically by operation of law in accordance with G.S. 90-270.15(f) if a licensee fails to meet continuing education requirements specified in this Rule. No exceptions to the continuing education requirements specified in this Rule shall be granted. This Rule shall apply to all individuals licensed by the North Carolina Psychology Board who choose to renew their licenses in North Carolina. Licensees who would otherwise not be required to be licensed, be exempt from licensure, e.g., not practicing psychology in North Carolina, may relinquish their licenses if they do not wish to comply with the requirements specified in this Rule.

(c) Definitions.

- (1) Continuing education hour – one hour of instructional or contact time as specified by an acceptable program sponsor, as defined in Subparagraph (3) of this Paragraph.
(2) Biennial renewal period – the period of time from the first day of October in each even numbered year, continuing for the following 2 years and 60 days (i.e., until the last day in November in the next even numbered year).
(3) Program sponsor –
(A) North Carolina Psychology Board;
(B) American Psychological Association (APA);
(C) American Psychological Association approved sponsors; or

(D) North Carolina Area Health Education Centers (NCAHEC).

(d) During each renewal period, a licensee must complete a minimum of 24 continuing education hours that meet all of the following requirements:

- (1) The continuing education hours must be obtained through in-person attendance at programs, or through completion of on-line or correspondence courses, that are sponsored or cosponsored by a program sponsor as defined in Subparagraph (c)(3) of this Rule.
- (2) The program sponsor must award a certificate of completion which documents the following information:
  - (A) name of sponsor and any cosponsor of program;
  - (B) number of contact hours credited explicitly for psychologists;
  - (C) title of program;
  - (D) date of program; and
  - (E) in the case of an APA approved sponsor, a statement that the entity is APA approved to provide the program as continuing education to psychologists.
- (3) A minimum of three continuing education hours must be in the area of ethics in the professional practice of psychology. To be credited as fulfillment of this requirement, the word "ethics" or a derivative of the word "ethics" must be in the title of the program, and the program must include such content.
- (4) Except as specified in Subparagraph (3) of this Paragraph, continuing education hours must be in the maintenance and enrichment of professional skills and competencies within the licensee's scope of practice in psychology, including, but not limited to:
  - (A) training in empirically supported treatment;
  - (B) the application of research to the practice of psychology;
  - (C) legal issues in psychology;
  - (D) training in how to properly supervise in accordance with Board rules regarding supervision requirements, as described in 21 NCAC 54 .2001(c); and
  - (E) training in best practice standards and guidelines.
- (5) Continuing education hours credited for license renewal in one biennium shall not be credited for license renewal in another biennium.

(e) To renew a license, a licensee shall submit the following to document that he or she has met the continuing education requirements specified in this Rule:

- (1) a signed attestation form created by the Board; and
- (2) copies of certificates of completion which include the information specified in Subparagraph (d)(2) of this Rule.

(f) An individual licensed on or before October 1, 2012, must attest on the license renewal application for the 2014-2016 biennial renewal period, and on each subsequent biennial renewal application, to having met the mandatory continuing education requirements specified in this Rule. An individual licensed after October 1, 2012, must attest on the second license renewal application following licensure, and on each subsequent biennial renewal application, to having met the mandatory continuing education requirements specified in this Rule.

(g) An applicant for reinstatement of licensure must document that he or she has completed a minimum of 24 continuing education hours as specified in this Rule within the two years preceding the date of application for reinstatement of licensure and must attest on each subsequent biennial renewal application to having met the mandatory continuing education requirements specified in this Rule.

~~(e) A continuing education hour is defined as one hour of instructional or contact time.~~

~~(d) Category A requirements shall be met through attendance at formally organized courses, seminars, workshops, symposiums, and postdoctoral institutes; or through completion of on-line or correspondence courses. Programs shall relate to topics listed in Paragraph (g) of this Rule; be identified as offering continuing education for psychologists; and be sponsored or co-sponsored by the North Carolina Psychology Board, by the American Psychological Association, by American Psychological Association approved sponsors, or by North Carolina Area Health Education Centers. Contact hours shall be specified by the sponsor.~~

~~(e) Category B requirements shall be met through attendance at colloquia, presentations of invited speakers, grand rounds, and in-house seminars; attendance at programs offered at meetings of professional or scientific organizations which are not approved for Category A credit; participation in formally organized study groups or journal clubs; and self study (e.g., reading articles or books for professional growth or in preparation for publishing, teaching, or making a presentation). One continuing education hour shall be credited for each hour of participation in Category B activities.~~

~~(f) A licensee shall complete a minimum of 18 continuing education hours in each biennial renewal period which begins on the first day of October in each even-numbered year. Continuing education hours shall not carry over from one renewal period to the next. At least nine continuing education hours shall be in Category A activities which shall include a minimum of three continuing education hours in the area of ethical and legal issues in the professional practice of psychology.~~

~~(g) Topics for Category A and Category B requirements shall fall within the following areas:~~

- ~~(1) ethical and legal issues in the professional practice of psychology, and~~
- ~~(2) the maintenance and upgrading of professional skills and competencies within the psychologist's scope of practice. This includes, but is not limited to, training in empirically supported treatments, the application of research to practice, and training in best practice standards and guidelines.~~

~~(h) Continuing education hours shall not be allowed for the following activities:~~

- ~~(1) business meetings or presentations, professional committee meetings, and meetings or presentations concerned with the management of a professional practice;~~
- ~~(2) membership, office in, or participation on boards and committees of professional organizations;~~
- ~~(3) research;~~

~~(4) — teaching, presentations, and publication, except as allowed as self study in preparation for these activities as provided under Paragraph (e) of this Rule; and~~

~~(5) — personal psychotherapy or personal growth experience.~~

~~(i) An individual licensed on or before October 1, 2002, shall attest on the license renewal application for the 2004-2006 biennial renewal period, and on each subsequent biennial renewal application, to having met the mandatory continuing education requirements specified in this Rule during the two years preceding the October 1st renewal date. An individual licensed after October 1, 2002, shall attest on the second license renewal application following licensure, and on each subsequent biennial renewal application, to having met the mandatory continuing education requirements specified in this Rule during the two years preceding the October 1st renewal date.~~

~~(j) An applicant for reinstatement of licensure shall document that he or she has completed a minimum of 18 continuing education hours as specified in this Rule within the two years preceding the date of application for reinstatement of licensure and shall attest on each subsequent biennial renewal application to having met the mandatory continuing education requirements specified in this Rule.~~

~~(k) For Category A, a licensee shall maintain certificates from Category A programs and written documentation of the following for a minimum of seven years:~~

~~(1) — date of program;~~

~~(2) — number of contact hours;~~

~~(3) — name of sponsor of program;~~

~~(4) — title of program; and~~

~~(5) — location of program.~~

~~(l) For Category B, a licensee shall maintain applicable written documentation of the following for Category B activities consistent with this Rule for a minimum of seven years:~~

~~(1) — date of program or activity;~~

~~(2) — number of instructional or contact hours as defined in Paragraphs (d) and (e) of this Rule;~~

~~(3) — description of activity;~~

~~(4) — name of presenter, facilitator, or leader;~~

~~(5) — name of sponsor;~~

~~(6) — location;~~

~~(7) — full citation of article; and~~

~~(8) — summary of content.~~

~~The nature of the Category B activity determines the applicable documentation. For example, name of presenter, facilitator, or leader; name of sponsor; and location are not required when a licensee documents reading a journal article.~~

~~(m) A licensee shall provide certificates, documentation, and a signed attestation form designed by the Board within 30 days after receiving written notification from the Board that proof of completion of continuing education hours is required. The Board may randomly verify the documentation of required continuing education hours for a percentage of licensees and may do so during the investigation of any complaints. A licensee shall not submit documentation of continuing education obtained unless directed to do so by the Board. The Board shall not serve as a depository for continuing education materials prior to its directing that documentation must be submitted.~~

*Authority G.S. 90-270.9; 90-270.14(a)(2).*