

# **OHIO STATE DENTAL BOARD**

## **Continuing Education Information**

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Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 4715.141 and 4715.25, licensed dentists (40 hours), dental hygienists (24 hours), and dental assistant radiographers (2 hours) are required to obtain continuing education (CE) in order to renew their Ohio licenses. Currently, dentists and dental hygienists must complete continuing education that reflects appropriate didactic and clinical training for subject matter as defined by the *American Dental Association's* (ADA) definition of dentistry, which states in pertinent part:

"Dentistry is defined as the evaluation, diagnosis, prevention and/or treatment (nonsurgical, surgical or relate procedures) of diseases, disorders and/or conditions of the oral cavity, maxillofacial area and/or the adjacent and associated structures and their impact on the human body..."

Therefore, course content must comply with the guidelines set forth in Ohio Revised Code Section 4715.141(A)(1) to (A)(7). Those guidelines are as follows:

- (1) Competency in treating patients who are medically compromised or who experience medical emergencies during the course of dental treatment;
- (2) Knowledge of pharmaceutical products and the protocol of the proper use of medications;
- (3) Competence to diagnose oral pathology;
- (4) Awareness of currently accepted methods of infection control;
- (5) Basic medical and scientific subjects including, but not limited to, biology, physiology, pathology, biochemistry, and pharmacology;
- (6) Clinical and technological subjects including, but not limited to, clinical techniques and procedures, materials, and equipment;
- (7) Subjects pertinent to health and safety.

Examples of course content which will not be considered acceptable for CE credit are; money management, personal finance or business, basic educational or cultural subjects not related to direct patient care, teaching of the use of the Internet, general physical fitness or personal health issues, presentations by political or public figures, motivational courses, or alternative medicine/theory which has no scientific basis, etc.

The Board has determined that the intent of dental and dental hygiene CE is to improve the clinical application of dentistry and dental hygiene to the citizens of the state of Ohio. Pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code Section 4715-8-01:

"Acceptable continuing education for all Ohio licensees is defined as educational and scientific courses given by board-approved sponsors consisting of activities designed to review existing concepts and techniques, to convey information beyond the basic dental education and to update knowledge on advances in scientific, non-clinical and clinical practice related subject matter, including ethics, regulatory compliance, risk management,

nutrition, and evidence-based dentistry wherein the objective is to improve the knowledge, skills and ability of the individual to provide the highest quality of service to the public and the profession.”

Additionally, dentists and dental hygienists who take the same exact course more than once during a biennium will only be permitted to claim the total continuing education hours for the first completion of the course.

Continuing education must be taken from a Board-approved or Board-accepted sponsor of continuing education. There are two (2) types of **Board-approved** CE providers; Permanent Sponsors and Biennial Sponsors. **Board-accepted** sponsors are defined by policy as coursework provided by *American Dental Association Continuing Education Recognition Program* (ADA CERP) providers and *Academy of General Dentistry Program Approval for Continuing Education* (AGD PACE) providers so long as they remain in good standing and are in compliance with relevant recognition standards and the guidelines set forth in Ohio’s Dental Practice Act (Ohio Revised and Administrative Codes Chapter 4715). Listings of approved ADA CERP and AGD PACE providers are available on-line at [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org) or [www.agd.org](http://www.agd.org).

Continuing education may be taken in **ANY** of the following categories of credit **NOT** to exceed the maximum number of hours indicated.

<b>Biennium</b>	
<b>Directly Interactive Presentation Format</b>	<b>No Maximum</b>
<b>Supervised Self-instruction</b>	<b>No Maximum</b>
<b>Categories of Credit</b>	
<b>(1) Dental education and scientific courses</b>	<b>No Maximum</b>
<b>(2) Opioid prescribing education</b> (Mandatory beginning with 2020-2021 Biennium)	<b>2.0 Hours Minimum</b> <b>No Maximum</b>
<b>(3) Non-clinical dental practice related</b>	<b>6.0 Hours Maximum</b>
<b>(4) Papers, publications &amp; scientific presentations</b>	<b>4.0 Hours Maximum</b>
<b>(5) Teaching &amp; research appointments</b>	<b>4.0 Hours Maximum</b>
<b>(6) Volunteer service as a clinician (Ohio only)</b>	<b>Up to 1/3 of the CE requirement</b> <b>13.0 Hours Maximum-Dentists</b> <b>8.0 Hours Maximum-Hygienists</b>
<b>(7) Table clinics</b>	<b>2.0 Hours Maximum</b>

The Board may excuse licensed dentists and/or licensed dental hygienists, as a group or as individuals, from all or any part of the continuing education requirements because of an unusual circumstance, emergency, or special hardship.

## Exemptions

- (1) Recent Graduates – Licensees who have completed their initial dental doctoral education or dental hygiene undergraduate education within their first registration.
- (2) Dental and Dental Hygiene Students – Licensees who are enrolled as students in a full-time dental or dental hygiene program in an accredited educational institution.

## Extensions

- (1) Military Personnel – Service members, veterans, or spouses of service members or veterans pursuant to Board rule 4715-14-03.
- (2) Health – Documented illness or condition that prevents licensees from obtaining continuing education requirements. Length of extension granted shall not exceed one year.
- (3) Other – Documented loss of records due to emergency or natural disasters.

## Waivers

Waivers may be granted to dental and dental hygiene licensees who are unable to complete the required continuing education hours for the biennium due to definitive reasons which preclude the licensee from active practice.

All licensee requests for extensions or waivers due to unusual circumstance, emergency, or special hardship must apply to the Board by submitting a Request for Continuing Education Extension/Waiver form to the Board executive office prior to renewal of the license. The form must be received with all supporting documentation in order to be considered by the Board's Education Committee and Supervisory Investigative Panel at a regularly scheduled Board meeting. The Request for Continuing Education Extension/Waiver form may be found here: <http://dental.ohio.gov/forms/cewaiver.pdf>

**IMPORTANT!**  
**Recognition of a sponsor does not imply endorsement of the course/program content presented.**