



CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

Questions and Answers for APA Members

What is the APA Continuing Medical Education (CME) Requirement?

The APA requires participation in a total of 150 hours of CME activities within a three-year reporting period. At least 60 hours must be in Category 1 CME activities. The remaining 90 hours may be in either Category 1 or Category 2, which encompasses all other activities that bring about new learning—for example, medical teaching, reading of professional literature, and consultation.

How do I demonstrate that I have fulfilled the requirement?

By signing and returning a compliance statement, which the APA will send when requested at the end of each three-year reporting cycle.

Members who are licensed in a state which has CME requirements for licensure or for risk insurance that are comparable to those of the APA are considered to have met the APA CME requirement and do not need to send in a compliance statement.

However, a certificate will not be issued for either of these methods of compliance. To receive a certificate, follow the instructions in the next section.

How can I obtain an APA CME certificate?

APA CME certificates are issued to members upon receipt of a complete report of your CME activities. You can submit a completed APA report form (available upon request from the Department of Continuing Medical Education) and also through utilizing the CME recorder within the APA CME website - or by using one of the following alternate reporting methods:

Submit:

a copy of your current Physician's Recognition Award (PRA) from the American Medical Association, or

a copy of your current re-registration of medical licensure from states which have CME requirements that are equal to or greater than those of the APA or

a copy of your current CME certificate from the state medical society which have CME requirements that are equal to or greater than those of the APA

Must I provide verification of attendance for each Category 1 CME activity when I submit a report?

No. Reporting is on an honor basis. However, reports are reviewed to assure that the hourly and categorical requirements have been met, and therefore it is important for members who use the official form to specify the accredited sponsor (for Category 1) as well as the correct title and dates of each activity or program. The APA reserves the right to request documentation and audit records of members' continuing medical education activities. If supporting materials are provided, they are returned along with the certificate.

Reciprocity with AMA

By completing APA's CME membership requirement and qualifying for the APA CME certificate, members may also qualify for the standard Physician's Recognition Award (PRA) of the American Medical Association (AMA).

Reciprocity with Canadian Psychiatric Association/Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons

APA sponsored and jointly-sponsored CME activities qualify as accredited group learning activities as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

By completing APA's CME membership requirement and qualifying for the APA CME certificate, Canadian members may also receive credit towards completion of the requirements of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons as administered by the Canadian Psychiatric Association.

Do I receive CME credit for participation in Internship, Residency, or Fellowship Training Programs?

Yes. You may claim 50 hours of Category 1 CME credit for each full year of training in a program that has been approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

How soon after I complete residency should I begin reporting my CME activities to the APA?

Following completion of an ACGME approved residency, APA members are considered to be in compliance with the APA CME requirement. Reporting should begin within three years.

May I claim credit toward APA CME requirement by successful completion of the Boards?

Yes. You may claim 25 category 1 credits for the successful completion of Part I and 25 category 1 credits for the successful completion of Part II of the examinations of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN), the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons (of Canada), and the APA. You may also claim 25 category 1 credits for the successful completion of ABPN or APA specialty board certification and specialty board recertification in Addiction Psychiatry, Administrative Psychiatry, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Forensic Psychiatry, Geriatric Psychiatry, Hospice and Palliative Medicine, Pain Medicine, Psychosomatic Medicine and Sleep Medicine.

Who is exempt from the CME Requirement?

Life members and Life Fellows who were elevated to life status during or prior to May 1976 are exempt from the CME requirement. Members achieving those member classes after May 1976 are subject to the CME requirement.

Members who are retired are exempt from the requirement when the APA receives notification of their retirement. Members who cannot practice due to illness or disability may apply for an exemption through their District Branch membership committee. The District Branch reviews the request and forwards its recommendations to the APA Committee on Continuing Medical Education.

APA members residing outside the United States are exempt from the categorical requirements, although they must report 150 hours of CME activity.

Who establishes the APA CME requirement?

The Members of the APA approved a constitutional amendment in 1974 that mandated participation in CME activities as a condition of membership. In May 1981, the Board of Trustees endorsed the current standards of participation in CME activities. The Board approved the current method of reporting in December 1983. The primary purpose of this requirement is to promote the highest quality psychiatric care and to encourage continuing professional growth of psychiatrists.

Does the APA keep records of my ongoing CME activities?

No. The APA does not have staff or computer resources to keep cumulative records for each member. Members are responsible for maintaining their own records. Members may maintain and track their CME activities on the APA web site, www.psych.org/cme through the CME recorder.

The APA would like to assist you in meeting the CME requirements. Please feel free to call or write the Department of Continuing Medical Education for assistance. The report form may also be filed electronically by completing it on the APA web site at www.psych.org/cme

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