

**ALABAMA BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN PSYCHOLOGY
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE**

**CHAPTER 750-X-3A
CONTINUING EDUCATION**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

750-X-3A-.01	Rationale
750-X-3A-.02	Responsibility For Continuing Education Compliance
750-X-3A-.03	Requirements
750-X-3A-.04	Prorated Continuing Education
750-X-3A-.05	Definition Of Continuing Education Activity
750-X-3A-.06	Fees
750-X-3A-.07	Renewal Period
750-X-3A-.08	Failure To Comply With Continuing Education Requirements

750-X-3A-.01 **Rationale.** Continuing education is the process through which professional licensees review psychological concepts and techniques, acquire new knowledge or skills relevant to their work, and improve their competence in current skills. These activities are intended to supplement what has already been attained in training and practice.

Author: Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, § 34-26-1, et seq.

History: Filed April 5, 1990, November 25, 1997.

750-X-3A-.02 Responsibility For Continuing Education Compliance.

(1) Compliance with the continuing education requirement is the responsibility of every licensee. It is the responsibility of each licensee to provide the Board with appropriate documentation of continuing education credits. On request, the Board will provide the licensee with information about his or her documented credits.

(2) Any activities submitted in satisfaction of the continuing education requirement must be relevant to psychology and acceptable to the Board. The Board is vested with the authority to audit and/or monitor programs given by any provider of programs submitted for continuing education credit.

(3) The Board may reject any credit applied for continuing education by a licensee if the licensee has either failed to demonstrate the validity of the continuing education experience to the standards of the Board or falsified any information provided to the Board regarding the continuing education credit sought.

(5) Making any fraudulent or untrue statement to the Board in regard to continuing education credits is a violation of the law and will be cause for disciplinary action.

Author: Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, § 34-26-1, et seq.

History: Filed April 5, 1990, November 25, 1997. **Amended:** Filed August 27, 2003.

750-X-3A-.03 Requirements.

a. The continuing education requirement for license renewal for psychologists is 20 hours per year. One hour of continuing education is defined as no less than 50 minutes of learning in one hour. Credit is accrued on an annual basis (October 1 - September 30). A maximum of 6 hours accrued during a given year may be credited (carried over) to the subsequent year and must be submitted by the annual renewal date of October 15. Hours cannot be carried over for more than one year.

b. The continuing education requirement for license renewal for psychological technicians is 10 hours per year. One hour of continuing education is defined as no less than 50 minutes of learning in one hour. Credit is accrued on an annual basis (October 1 - September 30). A maximum of 3 hours accrued during a given year may be credited (carried over) to the subsequent year and must be submitted by the annual renewal date of October 15. Hours cannot be carried over for more than one year.

Author: Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala 1975, § 34-26-1, et seq.

History: Filed April 5, 1990. **Amended:** Filed December 6, February 4, 1993, November 25, 1997, September 17, 2002, August 27, 2003.

750-X-3A-.04 **Prorated Continuing Education.** Individuals licensed for less than 12 months must acquire continuing education credit by the following formula: $20 \text{ credits}/12 \text{ months} \times \text{number of months licensed}$ and rounded to the nearest whole number. Begin counting with the first full month following the month of licensure. For example, an individual is licensed on January 6, the continuing education requirement is $20/12 \times 8 = 13.34$; rounded to 13 hours.

Author: Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, § 34-26-1, et seq.

History: Filed April 5, 1990. **Amended:** Filed August 2, 1991, November 25, 1997, August 27, 2003.

750-X-3A-.05 Definition Of Continuing Education Activity.

The American Psychological Association (APA) defines “Continuing Professional Education (CPE)” in psychology as, “an ongoing process consisting of formal learning activities at the postgraduate level that are (1) relevant to psychological practice, education, and science, (2) enable psychologists to keep pace with emerging issues and technologies, and (3) allow psychologists to maintain, develop, and increase competencies in order to improve services to the public and enhance contributions to the profession.”

(1) Programs offered by agencies which have been approved to provide continuing education activities by the APA qualify for continuing education credit, including, but not limited to home, independent, distance, book-based, or online study programs approved by the APA.

(2) Programs, other than home, independent, distance, book-based, or online study programs, will be accepted for credit if, in the opinion of the Board, the topic of the program clearly reflects the interface with the professional or scientific applications of psychology and provides the equivalent of APA-defined credit. Typically, such programs are offered or sponsored by other professional organizations, which are directly related to the practice of psychology (e.g., AMA, NASW, NIMH) and provide formal documentation of continuing education activity. The applicant will provide to the Board documentation that the program met all of the following criteria:

(i) A clear statement of the relevance of the program to the science or profession of psychology.

(ii) Objectives of the program are clearly and specifically stated.

(iii) Programs are publicized in brochures which identify faculty and describe the educational objectives.

(iv) Course leaders, teachers, or faculty are professionally qualified people who have demonstrated their ability, either by advanced degrees or publications in professional journals.

(v) Provision of a certificate of continuing education that supports participation in the activity for the hours indicated.

(3) It is the responsibility of the licensee to provide adequate documentation that the educational activity qualifies for credit according to the criteria above.

(4) Credit may be given for up to six hours per annual renewal cycle for being the presenter at continuing education activities/programs provided that all of the requirements of 750-X-3A-.05 are met.

Authors: Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, § 34-26-1, et seq.

History: Filed April 5, 1990. **Amended:** Filed October 5, 1990.

Amended: Filed June 4, 1992, November 25, 1997, September 17, 2002, August 27, 2003, January 20, 2006, May 16, 2007.

750-X-3A-.06 **Fees.** The annual fee is due at the time of license renewal. The fee covers the administrative costs for registration of continuing education credits with the Board and verification of compliance with the continuing education requirement by the Board.

Author: Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, § 34-26-1, et seq.

History: Filed April 5, 1990, November 25, 1997.

750-X-3A-.07 **Renewal Period.** Continuing education requirements are on an annual basis. It is the responsibility of each licensee to demonstrate compliance with the continuing education requirements by September 30th.

Author: Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, § 34-26-1, et seq. /34-26-22

History: Filed April 5, 1990. **Amended:** Filed August 2, 1991; Filed December 6, 1991, November 25, 1997.

Requirements.

(1) Licensees will be reviewed for compliance with continuing education requirements not later than November 30 of each year. Licensees found not to have met continuing education requirements will be so notified by certified letter by the Board.

(2) Notification from the Board to the licensee of failure to comply with continuing education requirements places that individual on notice of pending Board action regarding his or her license. Such notification constitutes the first step of due process notification for the licensee by the Board. The licensee will be advised of a date and time to appear before the Board to show cause as to why action should not be taken against his/her license for noncompliance with continuing education.

(3) Subsequent to presentation of facts in a hearing before the Board, the Board may take the following actions against a licensee for noncompliance with continuing education requirements:

(a) Extension of time to complete the requirement may be granted because of illness or serious extenuating circumstances amounting to good cause. The approval of the time given to complete the requirements shall be at the sole discretion of the Board. An extension under these circumstances shall not exceed one year.

(b) Suspension of a license until such time as the licensee meets the requirements of the previous period.

(c) Any delinquency, including suspension of license for failure to comply with continuing education requirements, equaling twenty-four (24) months will result in automatic revocation of license.

(d) Failure to engage in continuing education or failure to pay fees for registration of continuing education credits will provide grounds for suspension of licensure.

Author: Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala 1975, § 34-26-1, et seq.

History: Filed April 5, 1990. **Amended:** Filed December 6, 1991, November 25, 1997, May 16, 2007.