



Health Related Board: Board of Dentistry

Continuing Education

Dentists are all required to fulfill 40 hours of continuing education during the two calendar year cycle (January 1 of an odd year - December 31 of an even year) and keep a current C.P.R. card at all times. A minimum of 2 of the required 40 biennial hours must be obtained in the area of chemical dependency education.

Dental hygienists are all required to fulfill 30 hours of continuing education during the two calendar year cycle (January 1 of an odd year - December 31 of an even year) and keep a current C.P.R. card at all times. A minimum of 2 of the required 30 biennial hours must be obtained in the area of chemical dependency education.

All registered dental assistants are all required to fulfill 24 hours of continuing education, in subject matters pertaining to the delegable or assignable registered dental assistant duties or additional certifications (coronal polishing, etc.), during the two calendar year cycle (January 1 of an odd year - December 31 of an even year) and keep a current C.P.R. card at all times. A minimum of 2 of the required 24 biennial hours must be obtained in the area of chemical dependency education.

According to the Tennessee Board of Dentistry rules, acceptable continuing education is:

1. Courses sponsored or approved by any of the following organizations:
 1. American Dental Association or its constituent or component societies.
 2. Academy of General Dentistry or a state affiliate.
 3. American Dental Hygienists' Association or its constituent or component societies.
 4. Any national, regional or state academy or association of any of the recognized specialty branches of dentistry listed in T.C.A. § 63-5-112.
 5. National Dental Association or its constituent or component societies.
 6. National Dental Hygiene Association
 7. Capital City Dental Society.
 8. American Dental Assistants' Association or its constituent or component societies.
 9. Tennessee Dental Hygienists Academy of Advance Study.
 10. Tennessee Department of Health and its affiliated Metropolitan Health Departments
 11. Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA)
 12. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
2. Educational courses sponsored by an accredited school of dentistry, dental hygiene, or dental assisting. If such course is taken for or assigned quarter or semester credit hours, three semester hours or equivalent quarter hours shall be equivalent to fifteen continuing education hours. No credits will be counted for courses failed.
3. Five hours of continuing education credit in any one calendar year shall be given for general attendance at state, regional, or national dental meetings. These hours are in addition to any continuing education courses attended at any of those meetings.

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is defined as successful completion of a BLS Healthcare Provider course, or CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer, or an equivalent course, which provides training for healthcare professionals in CPR and the use of an AED. The course must be conducted in person and include a skills examination on a manikin with a certified instructor.

The Dental Board conducts random audits to verify C.P.R. certification and continuing education hours. You must retain these documents for a three-year period.

BEING AUDITED DURING A PARTICULAR YEAR DOES NOT PREVENT YOU FROM BEING AUDITED THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

Proof of continuing education cannot be in the form of personal summary. You must provide a copy of the certificate you were awarded showing the topic, hours awarded, instructor's name and credentials, date, who approved the continuing education, the time the continuing education started, and the time the continuing education ended.

If your license is active in this state (not in a retired status), **whether you practice or not**, you are required to have C.P.R. recertification and continuing education. If you retired your practice, but did not retire your license with the state, you are required to maintain current C.P.R. recertification and continuing education.

Requests for waivers of continuing education and/or C.P.R. should comply with the Rules and Regulations of the Tennessee Board of Dentistry (refer to [Rule 0460-1-.05\(5\)](#)). All waivers must be in writing to the Board's administrative office. As the rule states, waivers must be based on ***conditions that were beyond the physical capabilities for that individual*** to obtain C.P.R. and/or continuing education. The Board requests that you have ***doctor's statements sent directly*** to the Board's office stating the conditions and that it is the opinion of the doctor(s) that you should be allowed a waiver based on those conditions.

Whenever you have a question regarding continuing education, refer to [Rule 0460-1-.05](#) "Continuing Education and C.P.R.," or call the Board's administrative office and speak to the administrator of the Board