

## Continuing Education Guidelines for Addiction Counselors

### See [K.A.R. 102-7-9](#) - **Addiction Counselor's Continuing Education Regulation**

Overview: Each time an addiction counselor renews their license they must “complete 30 hours of documented and approved continuing education units oriented to the enhancement of an addiction counselor’s practice, values, ethics, skills, or knowledge”. The approval of continuing education happens when and if you are selected for a random audit by the BSRB. BSRB does not pre-approve continuing education.

- Any continuing education hours accumulated in excess of 30 hours cannot be carried over to the next renewal period.
- All three levels of addiction counselors are required to complete three hours of ethics within each renewal period.
- LMACs and LCACs are required to complete six hours of diagnosis and treatment for substance use disorders/mental health during the renewal period. Some examples of acceptable topics to meet this requirement are:
  - SBIRT screen (Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral, Treatment)
  - Diagnosis and Treatment of substance use disorders
  - Diagnosis and Treatment of a specific mental health disorder (such as Bipolar) if it also includes training on substance use disorders

In order to meet this requirement, the course cannot be focused exclusively on a specific therapy or treatment, such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. It must be a course/training that includes both the diagnosis and treatment of a mental health disorder found in the DSM.

### **Continuing education guidelines for licensees who hold a license in Addiction Counseling and another BSRB license:**

- A common misconception is that separate continuing education units are required for each BSRB license. You may use the continuing education hours for both license renewals IF the continuing education hours were dated within the renewal cycle of both license(s). The continuing education hours must also meet the requirements found in both professions continuing education regulations.
  - Most addiction counseling continuing education can be used to meet the continuing education requirements of the other BSRB license. This is because addiction counseling falls within the scope of practice of most other BSRB licenses diagnosing and treating under the DSM.

- However, some of continuing education for the other BSRB licenses may not be applicable for addiction counseling. If you are audited and you submit continuing education for addiction counseling continuing education that does not appear to be clearly related you will be asked to provide an explanation showing how the course relates to the enhancement of an addiction counselor's practice, values, ethics, skills, or knowledge.
- It is not necessary to take a separate 3-hour professional ethics course or training for each BSRB license. A course or training in ethics will count for each license as long as all other requirements above have been met.

### **What are the dates of my renewal cycle?**

- First time renewal: The date your license was issued through the date of your renewal or the expiration date of your license, whichever comes first.
- All other renewals: The first day after your license would have expired (see below) through the date of your renewal or the expiration date of your license, whichever comes first.
  - It is important to remember: the day you renew your license online or the day you submit your paper renewal is the day your current renewal cycle ends. It does not matter if your license does not expire for two more months. *Once you submit your renewal you have attested to completing all continuing education required for the renewal.* Additionally, you attest in that renewal that you have proof of the completion of the continuing education.
  - The beginning date for your next renewal cycle is the day after your license would have expired. For example, if your license expires on July 31, your new renewal cycle begins on August 1. If you renew your license early, any continuing education taken after you renewed your license through August 1, cannot be used toward this renewal or next renewal cycle.

If you are selected for an audit and submit any course date that occurred before the day your next renewal cycle began or any course taken after your renewal was submitted, you will be subject to disciplinary action.

### **Regulations Related to Addiction Counselor's Continuing Education and Renewal Audit:**

#### **K.A.R. 102-7-8 – Renewal Audit Regulation**

This regulation explains the renewal audit and the requirements one must complete when they have been selected.

#### **K.A.R. 102-7-9 – Continuing Education Regulation**

This regulation contains the continuing education requirements a licensee must meet for every renewal. All the activities that may be used to complete continuing education are listed with the maximum number of hours that may be accrued and submitted for each activity listed.

#### **K.A.R. 102-7-10 – Documentation of Continuing Education Regulation**

This regulation lists the forms of documentation that are accepted as proof that the licensee has completed that continuing education activity. These documents will be required if you are selected for audit.