

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE DIVISION[645]

Notice of Intended Action

**Proposing rulemaking related to continuing education
and providing an opportunity for public comment**

The Board of Massage Therapy hereby proposes to rescind Chapter 133, “Continuing Education for Massage Therapists,” Iowa Administrative Code, and to adopt a new chapter with the same title.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 147.76, 152C.3, 272C.2 and 272C.3.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code chapters 17A, 147, 152C and 272C.

Purpose and Summary

Proposed Chapter 133 sets forth continuing education requirements for massage therapists. It includes definitions related to continuing education, the required number of hours of continuing education that licensees are required to obtain, the standards that licensees need to meet to comply with the chapter, and the types of continuing education courses and activities that are permissible. The intended benefit of continuing education is to ensure massage therapists maintain up-to-date practice standards and, as a result, provide high-quality services to Iowans.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the State of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Board for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to 645—Chapter 18.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit written or oral comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written or oral comments in response to this rulemaking must be received by the Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing no later than 4:30 p.m. on January 31, 2024. Comments should be directed to:

Jessica O’Brien
Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing
6200 Park Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50321
Phone: 515.281.6352
Email: jessica.o'brien@dia.iowa.gov

Public Hearing

Public hearings at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

January 30, 2024
10:30 a.m.

6200 Park Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa
Video call link:
meet.google.com/jji-jaoj-uqy
Or dial: 1.904.330.1060
PIN: 744 558 427#

January 31, 2024
10:30 a.m.

6200 Park Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa
Video call link:
meet.google.com/jji-jaoj-uqy
Or dial: 1.904.330.1060
PIN: 744 558 427#

Persons who wish to make oral comments at a public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rulemaking. In an effort to ensure accuracy in memorializing a person's comments, a person may provide written comments in addition to or in lieu of oral comments at a hearing.

Any persons who intend to attend a public hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Board and advise of specific needs.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its [regular monthly meeting](#) or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

The following rulemaking action is proposed:

ITEM 1. Rescind 645—Chapter 133 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 133
CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR MASSAGE THERAPISTS

645—133.1(152C) Definitions.

“Active license” means a license that is current and has not expired.

“Approved program/activity” means a continuing education program/activity meeting the standards set forth in these rules.

“Audit” means the selection of licensees for verification of satisfactory completion of continuing education requirements during a specified time period or the selection of providers for verification of adherence to continuing education provider requirements during a specified time period.

“Board” means the board of massage therapy.

“Continuing education” means planned, organized learning acts acquired during initial licensure designed to maintain, improve, or expand a licensee's knowledge and skills in order for the licensee to develop new knowledge and skills relevant to the enhancement of practice, education, or theory development to improve the safety and welfare of the public.

“Hands-on training” means learning techniques that manipulate the soft tissue of the body.

“Hour of continuing education” means at least 50 minutes spent by a licensee in actual attendance at and completion of an approved continuing education activity.

“*Inactive license*” means a license that has expired because it was not renewed by the end of the grace period.

“*Independent study*” means a subject/program/activity that a person pursues autonomously that meets standards for approval criteria in the rules and includes a posttest.

“*License*” means license to practice.

“*Licensee*” means any person licensed to practice as a massage therapist in the state of Iowa.

“*Presenter*” means person(s)/instructor(s) providing continuing education training.

645—133.2(152C) Continuing education requirements. Each biennium, each person who is licensed to practice as a massage therapist in this state shall be required to complete a minimum of 16 hours of continuing education. A biennium is a two-year period beginning with the date the license was granted.

133.2(1) The biennial continuing education compliance period runs concurrently with each two-year renewal period. The renewal period begins on the date the initial license is granted and ends two years later on the day before the anniversary date of that initial license.

133.2(2) Requirements for new licensees. Those persons licensed for the first time are not required to complete continuing education as a prerequisite for the first renewal of their licenses. Continuing education hours acquired anytime from the initial licensing until the second license renewal period may be used.

133.2(3) Hours of continuing education credit may be obtained by attending and participating in a continuing education activity meeting the requirements of this chapter. These hours must be in accordance with these rules.

133.2(4) No hours of continuing education will be carried over into the next renewal period. A licensee whose license was reactivated during the current renewal compliance period may use continuing education earned during the compliance period for the first renewal following reactivation.

133.2(5) The cost of continuing education is the responsibility of each licensee.

645—133.3(152C,272C) Continuing education criteria.

133.3(1) *General criteria.* A continuing education activity that meets all of the following criteria is appropriate for continuing education credit if the continuing education activity:

- a. Constitutes an organized program of learning that contributes directly to the professional competency of the licensee;
- b. Pertains to subject matters that integrally relate to the practice of the profession;
- c. Is conducted by individuals who have specialized education, training and experience by reason of which said individuals should be considered qualified concerning the subject matter of the program.

At the time of audit, the board may request the qualifications of presenters;

- d. Fulfills stated program goals, objectives, or both; and
- e. Provides proof of attendance to licensees in attendance, including:
 - (1) Date, location, course title, presenter(s);
 - (2) Number of program contact hours; and
 - (3) Certificate of completion or evidence of successful completion of the course from the course sponsor.

133.3(2) *Specific criteria.* A licensee shall obtain a minimum of 16 hours of continuing education credit every two years. A minimum of 8 hours of the 16 hours must be hands-on training. A maximum of 8 hours of the 16 hours may be independent study. Licensees may obtain continuing education hours of credit by:

- a. Attending workshops, conferences, or symposiums.
- b. Accessing online training, such as viewing interactive conferences, attending webinars, or completing online training courses.
- c. Teaching curriculum at a school of massage therapy or presenting professional continuing education programs that meet the criteria listed in this subrule. One hour of credit will be awarded for each hour of presentation. A course schedule or brochure must be maintained for audit. A maximum of 4 hours may be awarded under this paragraph per biennium.

d. Completing academic courses that directly relate to the professional competency of the licensee. Official transcripts indicating successful completion of academic courses that apply to the field of massage therapy will be necessary in order for the licensee to receive the following continuing education credits:

1 academic semester hour = 15 continuing education hours of credit

1 academic trimester hour = 12 continuing education hours of credit

1 academic quarter hour = 10 continuing education hours of credit

1 academic clock hour = 1 continuing education hour of credit

e. Teaching in an approved college, university, or graduate school. The licensee may receive the following continuing education credits:

1 academic semester hour = 15 continuing education hours of credit

1 academic trimester hour = 12 continuing education hours of credit

1 academic quarter hour = 10 continuing education hours of credit

f. Authoring research the results of which are published in a recognized professional publication. The licensee will receive 5 hours of credit per page.

g. Taking courses directly beneficial to business practices necessary for operating a massage practice. Content areas include, but are not limited to, business management, financial management, accounting, tax preparation, marketing, human relations, communication skills, business ethics, and massage ethics.

h. Taking courses related to personal skills topics, such as career burnout, communication skills, human relations, and other like topics.

i. Completing programs that enhance a supplemental or complementary skill set directly related to promoting the public health while providing massage therapy. Content areas include, but are not limited to, CPR, first aid, contraindication training, sanitation, and geriatric care.

j. Completing mandatory reporter training pursuant to Iowa Code sections 232.69 and 235B.16. One hour of credit will be awarded for each hour of completed mandatory reporter training.

k. Passing a board-approved national examination administered by the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards or the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork within the biennial continuing education compliance period. A copy of the applicant's official notification may be used by the board as verification.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 21, 147, 152C and 272C.