

CHAPTER 573
DENTAL CONTINUING EDUCATION

Chapter rescission date pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.7: 4/9/30

481—573.1(153) Continuing education requirements.

573.1(1) Prior to renewal, licensees and registrants are responsible for completing continuing education as follows unless claiming a permissible extension or exemption:

- a.* Each person who holds a license or faculty permit to practice dentistry: a minimum of 30 hours.
- b.* Each person who holds a license or faculty permit to practice dental hygiene: a minimum of 30 hours.
- c.* Each person registered to practice dental assisting: a minimum of 20 hours.
- d.* Each dental assistant or licensed nurse who holds a radiography qualification: a minimum of two hours in the area of dental radiography. These hours may also be applied toward the requirements as stipulated in paragraph 573.1(1)“c.”

e. Pursuant to Iowa Code chapters 232 and 235B, mandatory reporter training for child abuse and dependent adult abuse. Licensees and registrants who regularly provide or assist with dental services to patients in Iowa are responsible for completing mandatory reporter training within six months of employment or prior to the expiration of a current certificate.

(1) Licensees and registrants who regularly provide dental services to children shall complete training pertaining to identifying and reporting abuse in children. Completion of this component of the mandatory reporter training results in two hours of continuing education credit.

(2) Licensees and registrants who regularly provide dental services to adults shall complete training pertaining to identifying and reporting abuse in dependent adults. Completion of this component of the mandatory reporter training results in two hours of continuing education credit.

f. Pursuant to 481—Chapter 572, cardiopulmonary certification, which results in a maximum of three hours of continuing education credit. Certification in pediatric advanced life support (PALS) or advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) results in hour-for-hour credit.

g. A minimum of one hour of continuing education in the area of infection control. The course content should focus on infection control standards, as required by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

h. A minimum of one hour of continuing education in the area of Iowa jurisprudence related to the practice of dentistry, dental hygiene and dental assisting.

i. As a condition of license renewal, for a licensed dentist who has prescribed opioids to a patient during the biennium renewal period, a minimum of one hour of continuing education on opioids.

(1) This training shall include guidelines for prescribing opioids, including recommendations on limitations of dosages and the length of prescriptions, risk factors for abuse, and nonopioid and nonpharmacological therapy options. If the continuing education did not cover the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guideline for prescribing opioids for chronic pain, the licensee shall read the guideline prior to license renewal.

(2) A licensed dentist who did not prescribe opioids during the biennium renewal period may attest that the dentist is not subject to this requirement due to the fact that the dentist did not prescribe opioids during the time period.

573.1(2) Licensees and registrants may apply completed continuing education hours that meet the requirements of paragraphs 573.1(1)“d” through “h” toward the requirements for renewal of the license or registration.

573.1(3) The continuing education compliance period shall be the 24-month period commencing September 1 and ending on August 31 of the renewal cycle, except when applying continuing education hours from the previous renewal period in accordance with this rule.

573.1(4) Licensees and registrants may obtain continuing education credit by attending and participating in continuing education activities that meet the requirements of this chapter.

573.1(5) Pursuant to Iowa Code section 272C.2(2) “h,” licensees and registrants who complete continuing education hours in excess of the requirements for renewal may apply up to 50 percent of the required hours to the following renewal period. Hours may be carried forward as follows:

- a. Licensees and faculty permit holders may apply a maximum of 15 hours from the previous renewal period.
- b. Registered dental assistants may apply a maximum of ten hours from the previous renewal period.
- c. Licensees and registrants may not carry forward hours for courses in the areas of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), infection control, jurisprudence, dental radiography, or opioids completed during the previous renewal period.

[ARC 8987C, IAB 3/5/25, effective 4/9/25; ARC 0247D, IAB 4/29/26, effective 6/3/26]

481—573.2(153) Documentation of continuing education hours.

573.2(1) Licensees and registrants are responsible for obtaining evidence of successful completion for courses attended. The course sponsor should verify credit hours on the proof of attendance.

573.2(2) When applying for renewal, licensees and registrants will report the number of continuing education credit hours completed unless claiming an exemption pursuant to rule 481—573.5(153).

573.2(3) Every licensee and registrant should maintain a record of all courses attended by keeping evidence of continuing education for four years following renewal. The board reserves the right to audit the continuing education hours reported by any licensee or registrant. If selected for audit, the licensee or registrant is responsible for submitting copies of the certificates or other evidence.

[ARC 8987C, IAB 3/5/25, effective 4/9/25]

481—573.3(153) Acceptable programs and activities.

573.3(1) A continuing education activity is deemed to be acceptable if it meets the following criteria:

- a. It constitutes an organized program of learning that contributes directly to the professional competency of the licensee or registrant and is of value to dentistry, is applicable to oral health care, or otherwise pertains to patient care;
- b. It pertains to common subjects or other subject matters that relate to the practice of dentistry, dental hygiene, or dental assisting and that are intended to review or update knowledge of new or existing concepts and techniques and enhance the dental health of the public; and
- c. It is developed or conducted by individuals who have sufficient education, training and experience to be knowledgeable in the subject matter. Continuing education activities that are developed or approved for continuing education credit by a nationally recognized organization, such as the American Dental Association, the Academy of General Dentistry or another dental specialty organization, would meet these criteria.

573.3(2) Types of activities acceptable for continuing dental education credit include:

- a. A dental science course that includes topics that address the clinical practice of dentistry, dental hygiene, dental assisting and dental public health.
- b. Courses pertaining to the practice of dentistry that include areas such as recordkeeping, medical conditions that may have an effect on oral health, ergonomics related to clinical practice, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), risk management, sexual boundaries, communication with patients, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations, and the discontinuation of practice related to the transition of patient care and patient records.
- c. Sessions attended at a convention-type meeting that includes a variety of concurrent educational experiences directly related to the practice of dentistry. Attendees at a multiday convention may receive a maximum of 1.5 hours of credit per day with the maximum of 6 hours of credit allowed per biennium.
 - (1) Attendance of table clinic sessions will result in two hours of credit as verified by the sponsor, provided the subject matter conforms to this chapter.
 - (2) Presentation of an original table clinic session will result in four hours of continuing education credit as verified by the sponsor, provided the subject matter conforms to this chapter.
- d. Postgraduate study relating to health sciences, which will result in 15 hours of continuing education per semester.

e. Successful completion of a recognized specialty examination or the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) examination, which will result in 15 hours of continuing education credit.

f. Self-study activities, which are permitted with a maximum of 12 hours of continuing credit per renewal period.

g. Original presentation of continuing dental education courses, which will result in credit double that which is awarded to participants. Additional credit will not be granted for the repeating of presentations within the renewal period.

h. Teaching. Licensees and registrants who serve as adjunct faculty at an accredited school may claim continuing education credit for teaching that is part of the normal academic duties. Licensees and registrants may apply a maximum of six hours of credit per renewal period.

i. Publication of scientific articles in professional journals related to dentistry, dental hygiene, or dental assisting, which will result in 5 hours of continuing education credit per article with a maximum of 20 hours allowed per renewal period.

j. Delivery of volunteer dental services without compensation through a free clinic, the purpose of which is the delivery of health care services to low-income or underserved individuals. Licensees and registrants may claim one hour of continuing education credit for every three hours of volunteer dental services.

(1) The volunteer hours must be verified by the free clinic or the organization sponsoring the event where the volunteer services are provided.

(2) Licensees and faculty permit holders may apply a maximum of six hours of credit per renewal period.

(3) Registrants may apply a maximum of four hours of credit per renewal period.

573.3(3) Credit may be given for other continuing education activities upon approval by the board.

573.3(4) Continuing education courses in the areas of expanded functions or sedation must receive prior approval from the board, or committee approval as authorized, pursuant to 481—Chapter 577 and 481—subrule 572.11(1).

[ARC 8987C, IAB 3/5/25, effective 4/9/25]

481—573.4(153) Unacceptable programs and activities. Unacceptable subject matter and activity types for the purposes of renewal include but are not limited to personal development, business aspects of practice, business strategy, financial management, marketing, sales, practice growth, personnel management, insurance, and collective bargaining. While desirable, those subjects and activities are not applicable to dental skills, knowledge, and competence. Therefore, such courses will receive no credit toward renewal.

[ARC 8987C, IAB 3/5/25, effective 4/9/25]

481—573.5(153) Extensions and exemptions.

573.5(1) The board may, in individual cases involving physical disability or illness, grant an extension of the time to meet, or an exemption from, the continuing education requirements. Requests for extension or exemption should include a statement from a licensed health care professional confirming the disability or illness that resulted in the need for such a request. The board may, as a condition of the exemption, require the applicant to make up a certain portion or all of the continuing education requirements.

573.5(2) Extensions of or exemptions for continuing education requirements will be considered by the board on an individual basis. Licensees or registrants are exempt from the continuing education requirements for:

- a.* Periods that the person serves honorably on active duty in the military services;
- b.* Periods that the person practices the person's profession in another state, district, or territory that has a continuing education requirement for which the licensee or registrant meets all requirements;
- c.* Periods that the person is a government employee working in the person's licensed or registered specialty and assigned to duty outside the United States;
- d.* Other periods of active practice and absence from the state approved by the board; or

e. The first renewal period, or portion thereof, following original issuance of the license, permit or registration.

[ARC 8987C, IAB 3/5/25, effective 4/9/25]

481—573.6(153) Continuing education sponsors.

573.6(1) An organization or person that desires to offer continuing education courses or programs or other continuing education activities may do so provided that the sponsor complies with the requirements of this chapter. The board may request a sponsor to provide information about continuing education activities it offers, including names and qualifications of instructors.

573.6(2) The person or organization sponsoring continuing education activities is responsible for keeping a written record of the Iowa licensees or registrants in attendance, maintain the written record for a minimum of five years, and submit the record to the board upon the request. The sponsor of the continuing education activity will also provide proof of attendance and the number of credit hours awarded to the licensee or registrant who participates in the continuing education activity.

573.6(3) Programs sponsored by individuals or institutions for commercial or proprietary purposes, especially programs in which the speaker advertises or urges the use of any particular dental product or appliance should notify attendees of such. Sponsors may offer noncredit courses provided the participants are informed that no credit will be awarded.

[ARC 8987C, IAB 3/5/25, effective 4/9/25]

481—573.7(153) Review of programs or sponsors. The board reserves the right to monitor or review any continuing education program offered to Iowa licensees and registrants. Upon evidence of a failure to meet the requirements of this chapter, the board may deny credit for the purposes of renewal. The board may deny all or any part of the hours granted by the program. A provider that wishes to appeal the board's decision regarding continuing education credit may file an appeal within 30 days of the board's decision. A timely appeal initiates a contested case proceeding. The contested case will be conducted pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 17A and 481—Chapter 506. The written decision issued at the conclusion of a contested case hearing shall be considered final agency action.

[ARC 8987C, IAB 3/5/25, effective 4/9/25]

481—573.8(153) Noncompliance with continuing dental education requirements. It is the licensee's or registrant's personal responsibility to comply with these rules. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action by the board, including nonrenewal of the license or registration.

[ARC 8987C, IAB 3/5/25, effective 4/9/25]

481—573.9(153) Dental hygiene continuing education. The dental hygiene committee, in its discretion, may make recommendations to the board for approval or denial of requests pertaining to dental hygiene education. The following items will be forwarded to the dental hygiene committee for review:

1. Requests by dental hygienists for waivers, extensions and exemptions of the continuing education requirements.

2. Appeals of denial of dental hygiene continuing education and conduct of hearings as necessary.

[ARC 8987C, IAB 3/5/25, effective 4/9/25]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 147.10, 147.11, 153.15A and 153.39 and chapter 272C.

[Filed ARC 8987C (Notice ARC 8495C, IAB 12/11/24), IAB 3/5/25, effective 4/9/25]

[Filed ARC 0247D (Amended Notice ARC 0071D, IAB 2/18/26; Notice ARC 9785C, IAB 12/10/25), IAB 4/29/26, effective 6/3/26]