

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE DIVISION[645]

Adopted and Filed

Rulemaking related to continuing education for hearing aid specialists

The Board of Hearing Aid Specialists hereby rescinds Chapter 122, “Continuing Education for Hearing Aid Specialists,” Iowa Administrative Code, and adopts a new chapter with the same title.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is adopted under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 147.36, 272C.2, and 272C.3.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code chapters 17A, 147, 154A, and 272C.

Purpose and Summary

This rulemaking sets forth continuing education requirements for hearing aid specialists. The rulemaking 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 in order to comply with the rules, and the types of continuing education courses that are permissible. The intended benefit of continuing education is to ensure that hearing aid specialists maintain up-to-date practice standards and, as a result, provide high-quality services to Iowans.

Public Comment and Changes to Rulemaking

Notice of Intended Action for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 10, 2024, as **ARC 7484C**. Public hearings were held virtually and in person on January 30 and 31, 2024, at 10:50 a.m. at 6200 Park Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa. No one attended the public hearings. No public comments were received. Grammatical and clarifying changes have been made from the published Notice.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Board on February 28, 2024.

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 481—Chapter 6.

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).

Effective Date

This rulemaking will become effective on May 22, 2024.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Rescind 645—Chapter 122 and adopt the following new chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 122
CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR HEARING AID SPECIALISTS

645—122.1(154A) Definitions. For the purpose of these rules, the following definitions will apply:

“*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.

“*Continuing education*” means planned, organized learning acts 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.

“*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.

“*License*” means a license issued by the state to a hearing aid specialist.

“*Licensee*” means any person licensed to practice as a hearing aid specialist in the state of Iowa.

645—122.2(154A) Continuing education requirements.

122.2(1) The biennial continuing education compliance period extends for a two-year period beginning on January 1 of each odd-numbered year and ending on December 31 of the next even-numbered year. Each biennium, each person who is licensed to practice as a hearing aid specialist in this state is required to complete a minimum of 24 hours of continuing education. A minimum of two hours will be in the content areas of Iowa hearing aid specialist law and rules, or ethics. Continuing education hours cannot be carried over to the next biennium.

122.2(2) Those persons licensed for the first time shall not be 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 may be used.

122.2(3) Hours of continuing education credit may be obtained by attending and participating in a continuing education activity.

122.2(4) The licensee is responsible for the cost of continuing education.

645—122.3(154A,272C) Standards.

122.3(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. Is an organized program of learning fundamental to the practice of the profession that contributes directly to the professional competency of the licensee;
- b. Is conducted by individuals who have specialized education, training and experience in the subject matter of the program;
- c. Fulfills stated program goals, objectives, or both; and

- d.* Provides proof of attendance including:
- (1) Date, place, course title, presenter(s);
 - (2) Number of program contact hours; and
 - (3) Certificate of completion or evidence of successful completion of the course provided by the course sponsor.

122.3(2) *Specific criteria.* Continuing education hours of credit may be obtained by completing the following in person or virtually:

a. Academic coursework if the coursework is offered by an accredited postsecondary educational institution. The maximum number of continuing education hours of credit for academic coursework per biennium is 15 hours with:

b. 1 academic semester hour = 15 continuing education hours; and 1 academic quarter hour = 10 continuing education hours.

c. A maximum of four hours of credit may be obtained by independent study. Independent study hours are subject to the requirements stated in the rules in this chapter and in 645—Chapter 4.

d. Attending programs or conferences or business, technical, or professional seminars that enhance a licensee’s ability to provide quality hearing health care services.

e. Mandatory reporter training as specified in 645—subrule 121.9(4). Hours reported for credit shall not exceed the hours required for compliance.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 272C.2 and chapter 154A.

[Filed 3/28/24, effective 5/22/24]

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EDITOR’S NOTE: For replacement pages for IAC, see IAC Supplement 4/17/24.