

PA CME Requirements

Alabama – Alabama Physician Assistants must complete 25 hours of AMA PRA Category 1 or equivalent (AOA, AAFP, ACOG) CME every year for annual license renewal. If the licensee does not reside and practice in Alabama, this requirement is waived.

Alaska – Alaska Physician Assistants must maintain an active NCCPA certification for license renewal.

Arizona – Arizona Physician Assistants must complete 20 hours of Category 1 CME every year for annual license renewal.

Arkansas – Arkansas Physician Assistants must complete 20 hours of CME every year for annual renewal.

California – California Physician Assistants are required to complete fifty category one hours from providers accredited by the AOA, ACCME, AMA, AAFP, or AAPA every two years for license renewal. This requirement is waived for NCCPA-certified licensees.

Colorado – Colorado does not currently have any CE requirements for Physician Assistants.

Connecticut – Connecticut does not currently have any CE requirements for Physician Assistants.

Delaware – Delaware Physician Assistants must complete 100 hours of CME for every two year license cycle, at least 50 of which must be Category 1 CME from providers accredited by the AMA, AOA, AAFP, or AAPA. This requirement is waived for licensees who possess an active NCCPA certification.

DC – Washington, DC Physician Assistants must complete 100 hours of CME every biannual license cycle. At least 40 of those hours must be Category 1 AMA, AAFP, or AAPA CME. The remainder can either be Category 1 or Category 2 CME from a nationally-accredited or state board-approved provider. All requirements are waived if the licensee possesses an active NCCPA certification.

Florida – Florida physician assistants are required to take 100 hours of CME every two-year license cycle. At least 50 of these hours must be category one courses from providers approved by the AOA, ACCME, AAPA, AAFP, or AMA. Of those 50, at least ten hours must be related to the physician assistant's specialty. The remaining 50 hours must be category 1 or 2 CME.

Of these remaining hours, at least two hours must be from a Florida board-approved CME course in medical errors for physician assistants.

Also, as part of these remaining hours, PAs are required to complete two hours of Florida-approved domestic violence CME every three license cycles.

If the physician assistant is NCCPA certified, the 100 CME hour requirement is waived, and the licensee is only responsible for domestic violence and medical errors CME.

During the first renewal cycle, the physician assistant must also take a one-hour HIV/AIDs course, regardless of NCCPA certification. This course will count towards the 100 CME hour requirement.

Georgia – Georgia Physician Assistants must complete 40 hours of CME every two year license cycle. Of those 40 hours, at least 10 must be related to the specialty of the board approving their primary supervising physician. In addition, physician assistants who are authorized to issue prescription drug orders are required to complete a minimum of 3 hours of practice-specific pharmaceuticals in which the physician assistant has prescription order privileges. These 3 hours count towards the 40 hour requirement.

Hawaii – Hawaii physician assistants must submit proof of an active NCCPA certificate every two years.

Idaho – Idaho physician assistants must complete 100 hours of CME for every two-year license cycle. They must also submit evidence of an active NCCPA certification.

Illinois – Illinois physician assistants must maintain an active NCCPA certification.

Indiana – Indiana physician assistants must maintain an active NCCPA certification.

Iowa – Iowa physician assistants must complete 100 hours of CME every two years, at least 50 of which must be Category 1 CME from providers approved by the AOA, AMA, AAFP, or AAPA. The remaining 50 hours can be Category 1 or 2 CME. A licensee who regularly provides primary health care to adults and/or children must include two hours of training on the identification and reporting of abuse in dependent adults and/or children every five years. Possessing an active NCCPA certification removes all CE requirements.

Kansas – Kansas physician assistants must complete 50 hours of CME for each annual renewal period. Of those 50 CME hours, at least 20 must be Category 1 CME and at most 30 can be Category 2 CME.

Kentucky – Kentucky physician assistants must complete at least 100 hours of CME from providers approved by the AMA, AOA, AAFP, or AAPA. They must also complete at least a 1-hour course on the human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome every ten years that is approved by the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure. Finally, they must possess an active NCCPA certification.

Licensees renewing for the first time must complete a 1.5 hour prevention of pediatric abusive head trauma CME course, which counts towards the 100 hour CME requirement.

Louisiana – Louisiana physician assistants must complete 100 hours of CME for each biannual renewal cycle. They must also maintain an active NCCPA certification.

Maine – Maine physician assistants must complete a minimum of 100 hours of CME during every two year licensing period. Of those 100 hours, at least 40 must be Category 1 CME from providers approved by the AMA, AAPA, or AAFP. The remaining hours may be Category 1 or 2. Possessing an active NCCPA certification waives these requirements.

Maryland – Maryland physician assistants must complete a minimum of 50 hours of Category 1 CME for every two year license cycle. A minimum of 8 of those hours must relate to pharmacology topics. Possessing an active NCCPA certification waives all CE requirements.

Massachusetts – Massachusetts physician assistants must complete a minimum of 100 hours of CME for every two year license period, at least 40 of which must be Category 1 CME from providers approved by the AMA or AAPA. The remaining 60 hours may be either Category 1 or Category 2 CME from providers

approved by the AMA or AAPA. For physician assistants with prescriptive authority, at least 4 hours of CME must be related to pharmacology. Physician assistants with a controlled substance registration (MCSR) must complete at least one course in effective pain management, identification of patients at high risk for substance abuse, and counseling patients about the side effects, addictive nature and proper storage and disposal of prescription medications. These are included in the 100-hour requirement.

Michigan – Michigan physician assistants have no CE or certification requirements for license renewal.

Minnesota – Minnesota physician assistants must complete at least 50 hours of Category 1 CME from providers approved by the AOA, RCPSC, AAPA, or AMA. Possessing an active NCCPA certification waives this requirement.

Mississippi – Mississippi physician assistants must complete at least 50 hours of CME each year for license renewal, of which at least 20 hours must be Category 1 CME as defined by the ACCME. Possessing a current NCCPA certification waives this requirement.

Physician assistants authorized to prescribe controlled substances must instead show proof of completing 50 hours of CME each year, of which 20 hours must be Category 1 as defined by the ACCME and 10 hours must be related to the prescribing of medications with an emphasis on controlled substances. Possessing a valid NCCPA certification does not waive this requirement.

Missouri – Missouri physician assistants must maintain an active NCCPA certification.

Montana – Montana physician assistants must maintain an active NCCPA certification.

Nebraska – Nebraska physician assistants must complete at least 50 hours of Category 1 CME approved by the ACCME, AOA, or AAPA. Up to 25 hours in excess of this requirement may be carried over to the next renewal period.

Possessing an active NCCPA certification waives the CE requirement.

Nevada – Nevada physician assistants must complete 40 hours of CME every 2 year license cycle. 18 of those hours must be AMA Category 1 CME. Two hours must be CME in the topic of medical ethics, pain management, and/or addiction care CME. The remaining 20 hours can be AAPA or AMA Category 1 CME in the supervising physician's specialty area.

New Hampshire – New Hampshire physician assistants must maintain an active NCCPA certification.

New Jersey – New Jersey physician assistants are required to complete fifty category one CME hours from providers accredited by the AOA, ACCME, AMA, or AAPA every two years for license renewal. Fifteen hours of CME completed in excess of the renewal requirements can roll over and be used for the next renewal cycle.

New Mexico – New Mexico physician assistants are required to maintain an active NCCPA certification. In addition to this requirement, licensees who hold a DEA registration and license to prescribe opioids must complete three hours of CME on the topic of controlled substance abuse every two-year license cycle.

New York – New York physician assistants currently have no CE requirements.

North Carolina – North Carolina physician assistants must complete at least 100 hours of CME every two years, at least 40 of which must be AAPA Category 1 CME. Proof of an active NCCPA certification waives all CE requirements.

North Dakota – North Dakota physician assistants must complete at least 100 hours of AAPA CME for every two year license cycle. They also must maintain an active NCCPA certification.

Ohio – Ohio physician assistants must maintain an active NCCPA certification and complete at least 100 hours of AMA, AAPA, AOA, ACCME, AAFP, or ACOG Category 1 CME. On top of those requirements, physician assistants must complete at least 12 hours of pharmacology CE from an accredited institution recognized by the state medical board.

Oklahoma – Oklahoma physician assistants must complete at least 20 hours of Category 1 CME each year. At least one of these hours must be on the topic of substance abuse.

Oregon – Oregon physician assistants must complete at least 60 hours of AMA, APMA, AAPA, or AOA Category 1 CME or AOA Category 1A or 2A CME every two year license cycle.

During their first license cycle, licensees must complete a one-hour pain management course specific to Oregon provided by the Pain Management Commission of the Department of Human Services and a minimum of six CME hours on the subjects of pain management and/or the treatment of terminally ill and dying patients.

Pennsylvania – Pennsylvania physician assistants must maintain a valid NCCPA certification.

Rhode Island – Rhode Island physician assistants must complete at least 20 hours of Category 1 CME approved by the AAPA, AOA, ACCME, or AAFP every two year license cycle.

South Carolina – South Carolina physician assistants with the right to prescribe must complete 4 hours of CE in prescribing controlled substances. Physician assistants that do not possess the right to prescribe do not have any CE requirements at this time.

South Dakota – South Dakota physician assistants must complete at least 30 hours of CME every annual license cycle. Maintenance of an active NCCPA certification waives this requirement.

Tennessee – Tennessee physician assistants must maintain an active NCCPA certification. They must also complete 100 hours of CME, at least 50 of which must be Category 1. At least one of the courses must be on the topic of prescribing practices.

Texas – Texas Physician Assistants are required to take 20 hours of category one CME from AAPA-approved providers, and 20 hours of category one or two CME every year for license renewal. Up to 80 hours taken in excess of the renewal requirements can roll over into the next two license cycles. These hours expire after that period of time.

Utah – Utah physician assistants must complete at least 40 hours of CME every two year license cycle. Of those hours, at least 34 must Category 1 CME from providers approved by the ACCME or AAPA. A maximum of six hours may be earned from non-ACCME offerings from the Utah Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing. All CE must be on topics relevant to the physician assistant's area of practice. Possessing an active NCCPA certification waives all CE requirements.

Vermont – Vermont physician assistants must maintain an active NCCPA certification.

Virginia – Virginia physician assistants must maintain an active NCCPA certification.

Washington – Washington physician assistants must complete at least 100 hours of CME every two year license period, at least 40 of which must be Category 1 CME. Possession of an active NCCPA license waives all CE requirements.

West Virginia – For every two year license renewal, West Virginia physician assistants must complete 100 hours of CME. At least 50 hours must be Category 1 CME as defined by the AMA, AAPA, or AAFP. The remaining hours can be Category 1 or 2 CME as defined by the AMA, AAPA, or AAFP. Possessing a current NCCPA certification waives this requirement.

Physician assistants that have prescribed, administered, or dispensed a controlled substance during the biennial license cycle must complete at least 3 hours of drug diversion training and best practice prescribing of controlled substances. In addition, physician assistants with prescriptive privileges must complete ten hours of continuing education in rational drug therapy. These hours count towards the 100 total required above, and must be completed even if the licensee possess a current NCCPA certification.

Wisconsin – Wisconsin physician assistants have no CE requirements at this time.

Wyoming – Wyoming physician assistants have no CE requirements at this time.