

CE FAQ's

This page is intended as a quick guide to our most commonly asked questions, not a substitute for reading [COMAR Title 10.36.02](#). If you have further questions or require clarification of COMAR Title 10.36.02, please call MPA at 410-992-4258 or the [Board of Examiners of Psychologists](#) at 410-764-4787.

If you have questions about a workshop that is not hosted by MPA, please call the Board of Examiners or the event's sponsoring organization.

Live vs. Home Study: What's the Difference?

Not sure whether a course counts as "live" or "home study"? It comes down to one simple question: can you interact with the presenter in real time?

Home or Independent Study

If you're completing a course on your own schedule — watching a recording, listening to a podcast, or working through materials online — it's considered home or independent study (this is the official COMAR term as well). There's no live interaction with an instructor.

To earn credit for home study, you'll typically need to:

- Complete a post-test on the material, and
- Receive a certificate of completion

Good to know: You can count up to 20 hours of home study toward your CE requirement every 2 years (10 hours if you're a psychology associate). Anything beyond that won't count, so plan your mix of live and home study accordingly.

MPA's home study courses are available through our continuing education platform.

Live Broadcasts

If you can ask the presenter questions and get answers in real time — just like sitting in a classroom — it counts as a live course (COMAR calls this simply a "course"). This includes attending in person or joining a live Zoom session at a scheduled time.

Live courses count toward your CE requirements as long as the presenting organization is one of the Board's approved sponsors (see COMAR 10.36.02.06) — MPA is one of them, along with a handful of other national and state organizations.

Live courses also require a post-workshop evaluation form to receive credit.

MPA's upcoming live workshops are listed through our continuing education platform.

Webinar vs. Webcast

These two words sound alike, but they're not the same thing — and it matters for your credit:

- Webinar: live and interactive. This counts as a live course.
- Webcast: one-way and often pre-recorded. This counts as home study.

Many organizations use these terms loosely or interchangeably, so don't assume — always confirm with the event host what format you're actually signing up for before you register. Getting this wrong could mean your credits don't count the way you expected.

For the full regulatory text, see COMAR 10.36.02.

Approved CE Sponsors

The following organizations and their approved CE sponsors are authorized sponsors of continuing education acceptable to the Board (per COMAR 10.36.02.06):

- A. American Psychological Association
- B. Association for Psychological Science
- C. American Medical Association
- D. National Association of Social Workers
- E. National Association of School Psychologists
- F. Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) — now the Maryland Department of Health (MDH)
- G. National Institutes of Health
- H. Accredited academic institutions

Sometimes there are a few levels of sponsors. For example, MPA is approved by APA, so our workshops qualify. Or a workshop is held by an organization approved by the Board of Social Work Examiners — since that Board sits within the Maryland Department of Health, that workshop will also qualify.

See COMAR 10.36.02.06 for the full text.

Maryland Licensure Mandated Subject Areas

Per COMAR 10.36.02.04, all licensed psychologists must include the following within their 40 CE hours every 2-year reporting period (psychology associates have similar requirements within their 20-hour total — see below):

3 CE hours in activities designed to enhance competence in the provision of psychological services to culturally diverse populations.

3 CE hours in activities whose content area is laws pertaining to the practice of psychology; ethics and professional conduct in the practice of psychology; or managing risks associated with the practice of psychology.

3 CE hours in activities designed to enhance competence in the provision of clinical supervision — required *only if* the psychologist supervised psychology associates during the reporting period.

Note: Psychology associates are also required to complete the culturally diverse populations and laws/ethics/risk management hours above, but the clinical supervision requirement applies to licensed psychologists only.

MPA hosts workshops that meet these needs throughout the year — check our upcoming continuing education or home study offerings.

See COMAR 10.36.02.04 for the full text.

CEs and License Renewal: Renewing Early

Each 2-year reporting period ends on March 31, and the new accrual period never begins before April 1 — regardless of when you submit your renewal.

This means: if you renew your license in February, any CE credits you take in March will not count toward your new accrual period. They'll still count toward the reporting period that's ending, but the new period doesn't officially start until April 1, no matter how early you file.

Please remember: you are earning CE Credits — not CEUs.

Answers to More CE Questions!

What types of issues qualify for the cultural diversity requirement?

The content is cultural and individual diversity, which includes but is not limited to individual, personal, and demographic characteristics such as: age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, language, national origin, race, religion, culture, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

If you are unsure whether a particular workshop would qualify, reach out to the Board of Examiners — they make the final decision.

If I attend an event approved by the American Medical Association (AMA), can I get credit? If so, how many credits — is it the same as the amount of CMEs awarded to physicians?

Maryland psychologists can earn credit from workshops presented by AMA. You earn 1 CE credit per learning hour.

What documentation do I need to provide if I am presenting at a conference?

You can get a certificate from the organization stating that you presented and the number of hours you earned.

How many credits do you get for presenting?

For the first offering of the material, a presenter earns three times the credits that an attendee earns. If it's a three-hour workshop, the presenter earns nine CE credits. Presentation CE credits are split between the first three presenters, and the maximum you can earn for presenting is 15 CE credits per reporting period (9 for psychology associates).

Am I able to get CE credits for a program for which I am the sponsor?

You do not get credit for sponsoring an event. You must either attend or present.

Can one course that covers ethics and multiculturalism together be used for both the ethics and multiculturalism requirements, or do they have to be two separate courses?

If a three-hour workshop could count toward either the Ethics or the Diversity requirement, you must choose one — the same hours can't be applied to both.

I just got my license renewed for the next 2-year period. I would like to attend some conferences scheduled for March — is it true that if I go, I can't use those earned credits for the next reporting cycle?

Only credits earned within the current reporting period can be counted toward that period. If you've already renewed your license, wait until after April 1 to start earning credits for the next cycle.

I published a paper in a journal and presented a poster at a conference on the data from the paper. Can I take CE credits for both?

Authors of a peer-reviewed journal article can earn up to 15 CE credits (8 for psychology associates) during the year of publication. Separately, three CE credits can be earned for developing and presenting a scholarly poster, with a maximum of 15 credits per reporting period (9 for psychology associates). These are separate categories, so yes — you can claim both.

Can you claim CE credit for peer-reviewing a paper submitted to an APA journal?

No. You can only get credit if you are the editor, associate editor, or an editorial board member of a peer-reviewed scientific journal — not for reviewing a single manuscript.

You mentioned that for presenting, you can gain 3 CE hours for every 1 hour presenting, but that it needs to be the first time presenting within the license renewal period. What if I present twice within the renewal period?

If you're presenting on different topics, you can earn CE credit for both. If it's the same presentation at a different time, location, or audience, you cannot claim credit again. You can earn a maximum of 15 CE credits for presenting each cycle (9 for psychology associates).

Are the MPA online workshops listed on their website?

Yes — MPA lists all current online/home study workshops through our continuing education platform.

How does the Board notify applicants when they have received their renewal registration?

When filling out the online form, arrows for each section will turn green, and you'll be directed to complete payment. If you have any concerns, call the Board of Examiners.

For publications, am I correct that you only receive credit if you are one of the first 3 authors?

Correct.

Will other ethics and cultural diversity workshops be offered during the year after the March conference?

MPA always includes the mandated requirement topics at our Essential Requirements Conference, and we always offer diversity and ethics workshops at our Annual Convention in the fall. We also aim to offer additional sessions throughout the year.

To gain credit for presenting, does the workshop need to be for an organization that gives CEs or CMEs, or one that is reciprocally approved by the Board?

To earn CE credit for presenting, the workshop must be through a Board-authorized sponsor.

Please remember: you are earning CE Credits, not CEUs.