



Arkansas Department of Health

Arkansas State Board of Chiropractic Examiners
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Governor Asa Hutchinson
Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health
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Effective July 24, 2020

The Arkansas State Board of Chiropractic Examiners held a regularly scheduled board meeting on July 21, 2020 and re-evaluated the topic of continuing education requirements for the 2020 calendar year. The Board voted and approved a rule waiver that they then sent to the Governor's office for approval under EO 20-06 and 20-16. This rule waiver will allow all Arkansas Chiropractic Physicians to obtain the remainder of their twenty-four (24) continuing education hours via distance learning instead of the required twelve hours in person/onsite and a minimum of up to twelve hours of distance learning.

Below is the statute and rule that has been temporarily amended/waived to provide for this waiver.

§ 17-81-312. Renewal -- Education requirement.

(a) The Arkansas State Board of Chiropractic Examiners shall not renew the license of any person actively engaged in practice within the State of Arkansas unless the person presents to the board evidence of attendance during the preceding twelve (12) months at:

(1) An approved educational session or sessions of not less than twenty-four (24) hours' duration conducted by an approved chiropractic institution of learning, or by some association approved by the board for the teaching of chiropractic philosophy and scientific courses pertaining to the profession; or

(2) An educational course conducted by the board.

(b) (1) The board may waive the requirement upon being presented a certificate from the doctor in charge that the license holder was physically unable on account of sickness or injury, or upon a showing that the license holder was in military service, when the course was conducted within this state during the preceding twelve (12) months.

(2) The board may waive the requirement for any other valid reason.

(3) Any person who is initially licensed in January shall be required to complete twenty-four (24) hours of continuing education by December of that year, and each year thereafter comply with subdivision (a)(1) of this section.

(4) Any person who is initially licensed in July shall submit a certificate of attendance of a minimum of twelve (12) hours of continuing education program approved by the board. Each year thereafter the doctor shall submit a certificate of attendance of completion of twenty-four (24) hours of continuing education seminars by December 31 of each year.

(c) The presentation of a fraudulent or forged evidence of attendance at an educational session shall be a cause for suspension or revocation of the holder's license.

Ark. Admin. Code 029.00.2 E.3

Continuing Education. In compliance with provisions of the Arkansas Chiropractic Practices Act, each licensed Doctor of Chiropractic, practicing in this state, must submit to this Board each year evidence of having satisfactorily completed not less than twenty-four (24) hours of continuing education, acquired during the preceding twelve (12) months, at some approved college of chiropractic or at some approved educational seminar. This may include specific courses of instruction, including up to twelve (~~12~~ 24) hours of preapproved videotaped education, with on-site Board member supervision, pertinent to the practice of chiropractic, or courses conducted by the Board.

(a) Courses or seminars conducted by colleges holding status with the Council on Chiropractic Education (CCE), or those courses or seminars sponsored by state or national associations will generally be approved, provided that both the course content and the instructional staff are in compliance with CCE and this Board's criteria.

(b) Courses or seminars taught in conjunction with, or in association with, and not sponsored and managed by an approved college or association, with their regular faculty and post-graduate instructors, will not be approved.

(c) Itinerant or for-profit courses or those conducted by commercial enterprises will not be approved unless conducted by an association approved by the Board for the teaching of scientific courses pertaining to the profession.

(d) Approval of continuing education programs which are not approved by the Council on Chiropractic Education nor conducted by approved Chiropractic Colleges, State or National Organizations, shall meet the following criteria:

(1) To allow for a maximum of ~~twelve~~ **twenty-four (24)** credit hours.

(2) Courses or programs must be approved by the Board in advance.

(3) The course, program, or seminar must be conducted by a recognized and reputable school, university, hospital, organization or interdisciplinary organization.

(4) Speakers or lecturers must be recognized as having expertise in the field of study.

(5) Course work must be at the physician level.

(6) Content of the program must be scientific, recognized by reputable authorities as having validity, and related to the practice of Chiropractic.

(7) Program or seminar must not be offered by a group or commercial enterprise, which primarily promotes specific products, services or equipment. A commercial enterprise may request approval of a seminar but the course contents and lecturer's expertise would be carefully scrutinized.

(8) Approval of a course is for a one-year period and re-application must be made each year. Approval may be withdrawn at any time if intent of the law and rule of this Board are not complied with.

(9) If a commercial enterprise requests approval by this Board, it must consent to permit attendance at the seminar by an investigative committee of this Board at no cost to the Board, including travel and other necessary expenses.

(e) All continuing education courses must have prior approval by this Board before credit can be given.

(f) Continuing Education Sponsor Processing Fee. In addition to meeting the requirement set forth for approval of continuing education programs, sponsors shall remit a five dollar (\$5) processing fee per every credit hour of instruction for each seminar per subject material, per calendar year to be submitted with the information required for program approval.

(g) Distance-based learning courses offered by electronic media in audio and/or visual format, such as through the Internet, which otherwise comply with these rules may be approved by the Board if the course meets the following criteria:

(1) The sponsor, organization or participant must have preapproval through the regular continuing education process for the State of Arkansas.

(2) The course must be test and time monitored to insure active participation by the licensee. The Internet education provider should provide a mechanism for verifying participation in the course.

(3) A maximum of ~~twelve~~ **twenty-four (24)** distance-based learning credit hours may be submitted by a licensee during ~~each licensing period~~ **the 2020 calendar year**.