

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS OF THE WYOMING BOARD OF EXAMINERS

HOURS

- * **How many hours of continuing education do I need each year?**

20

- * **If I have more than 20 hours in one year can I bank those hours and apply them to the following year?**

No.

- * **What is the best way to send in CEU attendance information?**

The best way for the Board to examine CEU's is with the ASHA CEU transcript if you are a paid registered user of that service. Otherwise, a certificate of completion with the hours attended listed on it is the next best option. If you are taking a teleconference/audiotape conference, be sure to find out beforehand what documentation will be available to you. Often ASHA will e-mail or send you a verification of attendance by request. If you are at an ASHA National Convention, be sure to have your card swiped at each session and then request from ASHA a transcript of all that you attended.

- * **Can I get CEU's for reading books?**

Currently WSHA can not approve these but ASHA can. Check it out!

- * **How can my school district help with the CEU requirement?**

If your school district is offering a course related to our field and the SLP's and AUD's would like CEU credit for it, have your district do the work for you and have them ask for Licensure Board approval 60 days prior to the activity.

- * **When should I start acquiring documentation to prove I have my 20 hours of continuing education?**

The sooner the better. Contact ASHA early to get your CEU transcripts to assure you have them in a timely manner. Do the same for college transcripts.

- * **Can I continue to get continuing education credits by using the lending library?**

No, that resource is not available at this time. WSHA is having difficulty maintaining up to date tapes to qualify for the requirement. ASHA requires that only videos that are 3 years old or newer be used.

- * **Can I still practice if I am late turning in CEU's or paying?**

The board will grant a grace period not to exceed 90 days to you if you need additional time to complete the required continuing education units. Ask for this extension in writing.

- * **What if I don't know if the workshop I am attending will qualify for renewal?**

You may apply for approval of a continuing education program 60 days prior to the scheduled activity. You will then be notified within 30 days of the program if it has been approved.

- * **Can you let your CEU's go and then reapply later?**

You will be required to make up all missed hours.

- * **Does the Board of Examiners know when I have attended the state convention?**

That is the one convention/workshop that your CEU coordinator has notified us of in the past to verify who has attended and acquired CEU's BUT it is still your responsibility to be sure you have evidence of your hours.

- * **Can we get all our CEU's through self study?**

Although the Board does not have a guideline at this time stating contrary, it is not advisable.

- * **Are breaks and meals during workshops and conferences included in the 20 hours of renewal?**

No.

- * **How does Wyoming compare with other states for CEU requirements?**

Wyoming continues to set a high standard for renewals. The average required yearly continuing education requirements in all states are 12 with a median and mode of 10. This takes into account that 25 of the 39 states require biennial records. Montana and Wyoming both have the strictest CEU requirements.

- * **What do others require for self-study?**

ASHA requires that 20 of 75 CEU's only be self study. Indiana requires 36 hours biennially and no more than 6 can be self study. Louisiana requires ten hours a year with 5 needing to be in the licensed area and 5 can be in related fields. Maryland requires 20 hours biennially and only 5 hours can be self study. Montana requires 40 hours biennially with 25 being through an approved sponsor. Nebraska requires 20 hours biennially and only 3 hours may be self study.

THE PROCESS

*** Are we still being randomly audited?**

Actually in 2000 the audit process was changed to a “review”. This process requires every person applying for licensure to send in all information regarding CEU activities each year.

*** Why does the auditing process seem to take so long?**

Usually the review is quick and easy if all the documentation is provided in an easy to read format. The time lag remains if there is some question about the paperwork. The Board tries their best to expedite the process when they can.

*** Will I get notified that I passed my review?**

Yes. A change was made in 1999 to relieve anxiety that possibly was occurring when a positive audit was not acknowledged.

*** What if my license has expired and was not renewed?**

You are considered the same as a new licensee if your license has expired after 2 years. If it has been less than 2 years then you would have to have kept up with the required CEU’s to be renewed. For two years, that would be 40 hours of continuing education. If you have not been licensed for more than 5 years, you would have to retake the national examination.

*** Why is the Board now asking for Birth Certificates?**

That was an order through the Attorney General’s office for ALL state licensing boards not just ours.

FEES

*** Are there ramifications if you are late paying your licensure fees?**

There is a late renewal fee of \$10 per month and up to \$20 maximum. The Licensee has two years to renew a license. If the renewal fee is not paid by December 31, the license will lapse and the Licensee may not practice until the fee is paid in full.

*** What is our licensure dues used for?**

The Board of Examiners has donated funds to WSHA to help with convention expenses when requested in the past the rest are used for administrative expenses

*** How does our renewal fees compare to other state?**

The average yearly renewal fee is approximately \$82.00. Fees range from a low of \$10 a year to a high of \$350 a year. 23 or 45 states charge renewal fees biennially. The median and mode were both \$50.

AIDS and CFY’S

*** Do I need to register CFY students?**

Yes. If you have a CFY student, aid, or a student teacher you are supervising, you need to contact Cheyenne and fill out a form registering them and stating As a licensee it is your responsibility. To register an SLP aid, contact Deb Bridges in Cheyenne at 777-6529 or Dbridg@missc.state.wy.us for an application. The aid/student teacher and supervisor will each fill out a form. The student needs to provide personal information, training record, list name registered under at training institute, character reference and it needs notarized. The Supervisor will state if supervision is direct (same building) or indirect, the number of hours they will be supervised and if itinerant.

*** How can I remember to register my clinical practicum students?**

The Licensure renewal applications will state in big letters to remind you to register them within 30 days.

*** Can I use anyone as a speech aid?**

No. Speech Aids according to our Rules and Regulations need to have 15 to 20 hours of training in the area of speech pathology before they are able to work as speech aids.

*** How often do I need to supervise an aid?**

1 out of 10 sessions. A session needs to include client/provider contact and a variety of clients need to be observed.

OUT OF STATE

*** How does someone from another state get licensure in Wyoming?**

Someone moving in from another state needs to prove they have a valid license and are up to date on their CEU's in that other state before they are issued a Wyoming License

*** Can someone be temporarily hired in Wyoming?**

Yes, but they need a Wyoming license prior to providing services here.

BOARD ISSUES

*** Do I ever get any input into changes made by the Licensure Board?**

There usually is a 45 day comment period for revisions.

*** How does licensure information get disseminated?**

The liaison member between WSHA and the Board of Licensure reports important information at the WSHA meetings and/or provides the WSHA president with the information that needs to be disseminated. Also check your WSHA newsletter for possible information. During the convention, board members are present with a special tag to answer your questions or talk about any concerns you may have.

*** I don't have a state rules and regulations booklet? Where can I get this information?**

You can request a booklet from Cheyenne or read it on line at

plboards@state.wy.us

*** Can I attend Board meetings?**

Yes. All meetings are open to anyone interested in attending.

*** How can I get on the Board?**

Board positions are by governor appointment. If you are interested, send your intensions in writing to Cheyenne.

*** Can I be on the Board for more than one term?**

Yes, two terms, if you have written your desire to do so in writing to Cheyenne.

*** Can we get our licensure renewal dates changed?**

Licensure renewal deadlines for SLP's and OT's are set by law and require legislative action to be changed.

*** Does the Licensure Board release my personal information?**

No. Currently all we are able to provide to inquiries is you name, license number, issue date and expiration date of your license and any disciplinary actions that have been taken against you.

*** Does the Board of Examiners disseminate WSHA information?**

No. The board prefers to remain neutral in promoting other organizations.

*** If I would like a list of names of licensed individuals in the state can I obtain that?**

Yes. Just ask the Board in writing.

CURRENT ISSUES

*** Are we still considering merging with the Sign Interpreters?**

No. They are forming their own board.

*** Are we going to need changes to our rules and regulations when ASHA's proposed changes occur in 2005?**

It looks like it. Keep informed of those possible changes at that time.

*** Do audiologists have to have a hearing dispenser's license to dispense hearing aids?**

Currently there is some discrepancy in the two laws that the legislature needs to address. The attorney general's opinion is that the audiologist's law is the newest formed and also their educational requirements are such that they should not need to have a hearing dispenser's license to dispense hearing aids.

*** Will we ever see a merging of Hearing Aid Dispensers with the Speech Pathology and Audiology Licensure Board?**

That could be a future possibility.