

CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR DENTISTS AND DENTAL AUXILIARIES

The Board's regulations for continuing education requirements are found at N.J.A.C. 13:30-5.1 (dentists); N.J.A.C. 13:30-5.2 (hygienists); and N.J.A.C. 13:30-5.3 (dental assistants and limited registered dental assistants in orthodontics). This notice highlights some of the frequently asked questions regarding continuing education requirements. Please use the link for a complete review. <https://regulations.justia.com/states/new-jersey/title-13/chapter-30/>

ELECTRONIC MEDIA DISTANCE LEARNING:

Board regulations cap electronic media distance learning (online/remote) coursework to one half of the minimum number of hours required to renew a license or registration for a biennial period (thus credit for electronic media distance learning is capped at 20 hours for dentists, 10 hours for hygienists, and 5 hours for dental assistants). To count toward continuing education requirements, distance learning courses must have a post-test, proof of which must be retained by the licensee as an additional record of completion of the course. Recorded webinars that do not have a post test will not be counted toward continuing education requirements.

NOTE: Webinars are not considered electronic media distance learning courses if they are live (not previously recorded) and synchronous (the instructor and registrant interact with each other in real time). Live, interactive webinars are considered in-person sessions that count toward live continuing education requirements.

PROOF OF COMPLETION

Dentists and dental auxiliaries must retain proof of completion of their continuing education. The Board in its discretion may waive up to half of required hours for donated dental services provided to eligible persons: dentists (N.J.A.C 13:30-5.1(n)); dental hygienists (N.J.A.C 13:30-5.2(g)); RDAs and LRDAOs (N.J.A.C 13:30-5.3(g)). Mandatory courses will not be waived.

DENTISTS:

The current biennial licensing period for dentists is November 1, 2023 through October 31, 2025.

To renew a dental license, a dentist must take a minimum of 40 hours of continuing education in the biennial licensing period preceding renewal, including ten mandatory hours: three hours in CPR, three hours in pharmacology and internal medicine, one hour in professional ethics and New Jersey law, one hour in prescription opioids, and two hours in infection control and prevention. A full description of the required coursework is found at N.J.A.C. 13:30-5.1(e)

Note: Recent Graduates A licensed dentist who graduates from dental school in the first year of the biennial registration period (between November 1, 2023, and October 31, 2024) must complete 20 hours of continuing education, including the ten mandatory hours, to renew for the 2025-2027 biennial registration period. A licensed dentist who graduates in the second year of

the biennial registration period (between November 1, 2024, and October 31, 2025) will be exempt from the continuing education requirements required to renew a license for the 2025-2027 biennial registration period.

DENTAL HYGIENISTS:

The current biennial licensing period for dental hygienists is January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025.

To renew a dental hygiene license, the dental hygienist must take a minimum of 20 hours of continuing education in the biennial licensing period preceding renewal, including six mandatory hours: three hours in CPR, one hour in professional ethics and New Jersey law, one hour in prescription opioids, and one hour in infection control and prevention. A full description of required coursework is found at N.J.A.C. 13:30-5.2(a).

Note: Recent Graduates A licensed dental hygienist who graduates from a dental hygiene program in the first year of the biennial registration period (January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024) must complete 10 hours of continuing education, including the mandatory six hours, to renew for the 2026-2027 biennial registration period. A licensed hygienist who graduates from a dental hygiene program in the second year of the biennial registration period (January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025) is exempt from the continuing education requirements required to renew a license for the 2026-2027 biennial registration period.

REGISTERED DENTAL ASSISTANTS AND LIMITED REGISTERED DENTAL ASSISTANTS IN ORTHODONTICS:

The current biennial licensing period for registered dental assistants and limited registered dental assistants in orthodontics is January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024.

To renew their registration, dental assistants and limited registered dental assistants in orthodontics must take a minimum of 10 hours of continuing education in the biennial registration period preceding renewal, including six mandatory hours: three hours in CPR, one hour in professional ethics and New Jersey law, one hour in prescription opioids, and one hour in infection control and prevention. A full description is found at N.J.A.C. 13:30-5.3(f).

Note: A minimum of ten hours of continuing education, including mandatory coursework, is required to renew registration as a dental assistant or a limited registered dental assistant in orthodontics regardless of when registration was first obtained or when a registrant graduated from a dental assisting program.