

WAC 246-830-475 Continuing education requirements. (1) To renew a license, a massage therapist must complete twenty-four hours of continuing education every two years, as provided in chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 7. Continuing education must be provided by an individual who has at least three years of professional experience in the subject area being taught. Massage therapists have a duty to ensure the continuing education they complete meets the requirements in this section.

(2) The following categories of continuing education are mandatory:

(a) A minimum of eight hours must be in person and directly supervised involving the participation of the direct application of massage therapy as defined in RCW 18.108.010; and

(b) A minimum of four hours must be in professional ethics, client or patient communication, professional roles and boundaries, or Washington state massage laws and rules. Two of the four hours may be met by attending board of massage meetings in person. A maximum of one hour is allowed per board meeting; and

(c) Maintenance of certification in American Heart Association CPR or equivalent. A maximum of four hours is allowed per reporting period.

(3) For the purposes of this chapter, the remaining hours of continuing education are defined as any of the following activities reasonably related to massage therapy knowledge, skills, and business practices:

(a) Documented attendance at a local, state, national, or international continuing education class, program or conference;

(b) First aid certification or emergency related courses;

(c) Self-study through the use of multimedia devices or the study of books, research materials, or other publications.

The required documentation for this activity is a one page, single spaced, twelve point font synopsis of what was learned written by the licensee. The time spent writing the synopsis is not reportable. Two hours of credit is allowed per report, and no more than two separate reports may be submitted per reporting period;

(d) Teaching a course for the first time;

(e) Business and management courses;

(f) Distance learning. Distance learning includes, but is not limited to, correspondence course, multimedia or webinar, print, audio or video broadcasting, audio or video teleconferencing, computer aided instruction, e-learning or on-line-learning, or computer broadcasting or webcasting; or

(g) Active service on boards or participation in professional or government organizations specifically related to the practice of massage.

(4) A massage therapist must provide acceptable documentation of continuing education upon request or audit. Acceptable forms of documentation include, but are not limited to:

(a) Transcripts;

(b) A letter from the course instructor or the organization providing the continuing education;

(c) Certificate of attendance or completion; or

(d) Other formal documentation that includes the following:

(i) Participant's name;

(ii) Course title;

(iii) Course description;

(iv) Date or dates of course;

(v) Number of hours;

(vi) Indication of being an in-person course, self-study as referenced in subsection (3)(c) of this section, or distance learning as referenced in subsection (3)(f) of this section;

(vii) Instructor's name or sponsor organization name or names;

(viii) Instructor or sponsor contact information; and

(ix) Signature of the program sponsor or course instructor. The self-study allowed in subsection (3)(c) of this section is exempt from this requirement.

(5) Massage therapists who maintain an active status Washington state massage license must meet all continuing education requirements regardless of whether they reside or practice in Washington state.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.108.085 (1)(a), 18.108.025 (1)(a), chapter 18.108 RCW and 2020 c 76. WSR 21-02-012, § 246-830-475, filed 12/24/20, effective 9/1/21. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.108.025 (1)(a), 18.108.085 (1)(a), 43.70.041 and chapter 18.108 RCW. WSR 17-14-062, § 246-830-475, filed 6/29/17, effective 7/30/17. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.108.025, 18.108.125, and 43.70.250. WSR 09-11-016, § 246-830-475, filed 5/7/09, effective 6/7/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.108.025(1).WSR 95-11-108, § 246-830-475, filed 5/23/95, effective 6/23/95; WSR 94-13-181, § 246-830-475, filed 6/21/94, effective 7/22/94.]