

SECTION .0400 - CPE REQUIREMENTS

21 NCAC 08G .0401 CPE REQUIREMENTS FOR CPAS

(a) In order for a CPA to receive credit for CPE activities:

- (1) the CPA shall attend or complete the activity and receive a certificate of completion as set forth in the Standards for CPE Program Sponsors in the NASBA/AICPA Statement on Standards for Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Programs, including subsequent amendments and editions, that are hereby incorporated by reference. Copies of the Standards for CPE Program Sponsors can be found at no cost on the NASBA website at www.nasbaregistry.org/the-standards;
- (2) the activity shall meet the requirements set out in Rule .0404 of this Section; and
- (3) the activity shall increase the professional competency of the CPA.

(b) An activity that increases the professional competency of a CPA shall be an activity in an area of the profession in which the CPA practices or is planning to practice, or in the area of professional ethics.

(c) Because of differences in the education and experience of CPAs, an activity may contribute to the professional competence of one CPA but not another. Each CPA shall therefore exercise judgment in selecting activities for which CPE credit is claimed and choose only those that contribute to that CPA's professional competence. Courses that cover substantially the same content, learning objectives, and materials as a course the CPA has already completed and received credit for within the certification cycle, regardless of the format or provider, are considered duplicate courses and do not qualify for additional CPE credit.

(d) Active CPAs shall complete 2,000 CPE minutes computed in accordance with Rule .0409 of this Section by December 31 of each year, except as follows:

- (1) CPAs having certificate applications approved by the Board in April to June shall complete 1,500 CPE minutes during the same calendar year;
- (2) CPAs having certificate applications approved by the Board in July to September shall complete 1,000 CPE minutes during the same calendar year; or
- (3) CPAs having certificate applications approved by the Board in October to December shall complete 500 CPE minutes during the same calendar year; and

Any CPE minutes completed during the calendar year in which the certificate application is approved may be used for that year's requirement even if the minutes were completed before the certificate was granted.

(e) A CPA shall complete a minimum of 50 CPE minutes annually in activities on regulatory or behavioral professional ethics and conduct. Ethics CPE shall be offered by a CPE sponsor registered with NASBA pursuant to Rule .0403(c) of this Section.

(f) There shall be no CPE requirements for inactive or CPA-retired CPAs.

(g) When a CPA has completed more than the required number of minutes of CPE in any one calendar year, up to 1,000 minutes shall be carried forward and treated as minutes earned in the following year. Ethics CPE minutes may not be included in any carry forward minutes to meet the requirement of Paragraph (e) of this Rule. A CPA shall not claim CPE credit for activities taken in any year prior to the year of certification.

(h) Any CPE minutes used to satisfy the requirements for change of status as set forth in 21 NCAC 08J .0105, for reissuance as set forth in 21 NCAC 08J .0106, or for application for a new certificate as set forth in Rule 08I .0104 of this Chapter may be used to satisfy the annual CPE requirement set forth in Paragraph (d) of this Rule.

(i) It shall be the CPA's responsibility to maintain records substantiating the CPE credits claimed for the current year and for each of the four calendar years prior to the current year.

(j) A non-resident licensee may satisfy the annual CPE requirements in the jurisdiction where the CPA is licensed and currently works or resides. If there is no annual CPE requirement in the jurisdiction where the CPA is licensed and currently works or resides, the CPA shall comply with Paragraph (d) of this Rule. A non-resident licensee whose office is in North Carolina shall comply with Paragraph (e) of this Rule. All other non-resident licensees may satisfy Paragraph (e) of this Rule by completing the ethics requirements in the jurisdiction in which the non-resident licensee is licensed as a CPA and works or resides. If there is no ethics CPE requirement in the jurisdiction where the non-resident licensee is licensed and currently works or resides, the non-resident licensee shall comply with Paragraph (e) of this Rule.

History Note: Authority G.S. 93-12(3); 93-12(8b);

Eff. May 1, 1981;

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