

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

Updated January 13, 2016

1. How many CLE credits do I need to earn each year?

Active attorneys are required to earn 15 hours of CLE, including two hours of ethics, each calendar year. This does not mean that you must earn 17 hours of credit; it means that of the 15 hours of CLE that you earn, two of those hours must pertain to ethics. Inactive, honorary and retired members are not required to fulfill the CLE requirement. Emeritus attorneys are required to earn 7 hours of CLE, including one hour of ethics.

2. What is the requirement for newly admitted attorneys?

Each new admittee by examination or by Uniform Bar Examination score transfer shall attend, within 12 months from the date of admission to the Wyoming State Bar, a six-hour continuing legal education course entitled "Pathways to Professional Practice." The Pathways course shall be conducted by the Wyoming State Bar and shall be available at least twice each year, at such times and places as the Wyoming State Bar may designate.

3. How do I report my CLE credits?

For each program you attend, you must apply for credit by accessing the Member Login page on the Bar's website at www.wyomingbar.org. Credits may be submitted through the online submission form or on the printable Application for CLE Credit. Sponsors cannot report CLE credits for you; you must submit the credits yourself. Letters or alternative forms will not be accepted.

4. What is the deadline for submitting CLE credits?

The CLE reporting period runs from January 1 to December 31. Attorneys must submit applications for CLE credit by January 15 of the year following the reporting period in order to avoid being assessed a \$300 delinquency fee. Applications submitted after March 1 for CLE activities completed during the previous calendar year will not be accepted.

5. What if I don't have my CLE hours completed in time?

An attorney who has not complied with the applicable continuing legal education requirement by January 15 of the year following the reporting period shall be delinquent and shall be subject to a \$300 delinquency fee. Attorneys who are delinquent shall have until March 1 to submit applications for adequate credits to cure the delinquency, along with payment of a \$300 delinquency fee payable to the Wyoming State Bar. Attorneys who have not cured the delinquency by March 15 will be recommended for suspension and assessed an additional \$300 non-compliance fee.

6. If I earn more than 15 CLE hours in a calendar year, can I carry those hours forward?

Hours completed in any year in excess of the minimum number, including legal ethics credits, may be carried forward for two years.

7. How do I find out how many CLE credits I have?

You can access the Member Login page at any time by visiting www.wyomingbar.org and click on "Check CLE Compliance."

8. Will I be notified of my current status of CLE hours?

On November 15 (or the next business day following) the Wyoming State Bar shall notify each attorney of the number of continuing legal education hours credited to that attorney for the current calendar year.

9. Does Wyoming compute CLE hours on a 50- or 60-minute hour?

Wyoming uses a 60-minute hour. A few other states, including Colorado, use a 50-minute hour for CLE credits. This means that you will receive less credit in Wyoming than in Colorado for the same program. Be sure to mark "60-minute hour" or "50-minute hour" on your Application for CLE Credit so that your credits will be reported accurately.

10. Can I get credit for self-study CLE courses?

Yes. You may earn up to six hours during each calendar year for self-study credit, including audio and video tapes and online courses. Live webcasts are eligible for live credits and do not count towards the six-hour limit.

11. Can I get credit for teaching a CLE course?

Yes. If you teach a CLE course you may receive three times the CLE credit. This triple credit only applies to the actual time that you are "at the podium," however. For instance, if you are on a two-person panel presenting a six-hour program, you will receive three credits for attending and three credits for instructing, which will be multiplied by three, for a total of nine instruction credits.

12. Can I get credit for Pro Bono public service?

An attorney may receive a maximum of five hours of legal education credit each calendar year for providing pro bono public service as defined in Rule 6.1 of the Wyoming Rules of Professional Conduct. Such credit may be received at the rate of one credit hour for each two hours of pro bono public service, including (1) performing pro bono public service, (2) acting as a mentor for another attorney who is performing pro bono public service, and (3) acting as a mentor for an eligible law student in accordance with Rule 9 of the Rules Governing the Wyoming State Bar and the Authorized Practice of Law.