

Title 30: Professions and Occupations

Part 2815: CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Part 2815, Chapter 1: Nurses Licensed in Mississippi

Rule 1.1 Scope and Purpose. These rules establish the continuing education requirements for all licensed practical nurses, registered nurses, and advanced practice registered nurses licensed in the state of Mississippi. The purpose of continuing education is to ensure that nurses stay abreast of current industry practices, enhance their professional competence and clinical skills, and to establish the practice of lifelong learning as it pertains to the nursing profession.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 73-15-17 (1972, as amended).

Rule 1.2 Definitions. For Part 2815, Chapter 1 only, the following terms have the meanings indicated:

- A. Continuing Education: planned, organized learning experiences designed to augment the knowledge, skill, and ability to enhance nursing practice and therefore improve health care delivered to the public.
- B. Accepted Continuing Education: Continuing education from a Board-accepted accredited agency or educational institution, for purposes of compliance with 30 Miss. Admin Code, Part 2815.
- C. Contact Hour: Sixty (60) minutes of Continuing Education instruction.
- D. Board: Mississippi Board of Nursing.
- E. LPN: licensed practical nurse.
- F. RN: registered nurse.
- G. APRN: advanced practice registered nurse.
- H. Initial Licensure Period: the period of time for which an initial license is valid.
- I. Renewed Licensure Period: the period of time for which a renewed license is valid.
- J. Carryover Hours: Accepted Continuing Education completed in the prior renewed licensure period in excess of the requirements prescribed by these rules.
- K. Healthcare: the maintenance or improvement of health via the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disease, illness, injury, and other physical and mental impairments in human beings.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 73-15-17 (1972, as amended).

Rule 1.3 Accepted Continuing Education.

- A. Accepted Continuing Education shall be calculated using contact hours.
 - 1) One (1) contact hour shall equal sixty (60) minutes of Continuing Education instruction.

- 2) One (1) academic semester credit hour related to nursing, healthcare, or the advancement of a nursing or healthcare degree shall equal fifteen (15) contact hours.
 - 3) One (1) academic quarter credit hour related to nursing, healthcare, or the advancement of a nursing or healthcare degree shall equal ten (10) contact hours.
- B. Accepted Continuing Education must be related to nursing and/or healthcare.
- C. Accepted Continuing Education must be provided by:
- 1) An accredited nursing and/or healthcare educational institution or
 - 2) A nationally accredited provider of nursing and/or healthcare continuing education.
- D. Accepted Continuing Education may be completed via the following methods of delivery:
- 1) Conventional classroom setting,
 - 2) On-line courses,
 - 3) Professional journals,
 - 4) Correspondence, or
 - 5) Independent study.
- E. Recommended Topics of Accepted Continuing Education are:
- 1) Nursing Ethics,
 - 2) Patient Safety,
 - 3) Legal Aspects of Nursing,
 - 4) Documentation,
 - 5) Scope of Practice,
 - 6) Pharmacology, and
 - 7) Other topics relevant to work setting and area of practice.
- F. Accepted Continuing Education may be repeated; however, credit will only be awarded once per renewed licensure period.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 73-15-17 (1972, as amended).

Rule 1.4 LPN Requirements.

- A. The LPN renewed licensure period is two (2) calendar years beginning January 01st of each even-numbered year and expiring December 31st of each odd-numbered year.
- B. LPN's licensed in Mississippi shall complete a minimum of twenty (20) contact hours of accepted continuing education per renewed licensure period.
 - 1) New graduate LPN's initially licensed in Mississippi by exam shall be exempt from this requirement for his initial licensure period.
 - 2) LPN's may submit a maximum of ten (10) carryover hours from the prior renewed licensure period to satisfy this requirement.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 73-15-17 (1972, as amended).

Rule 1.5 RN Requirements.

- A. The RN renewed licensure period is two (2) calendar years beginning January 01st of each odd-numbered year and expiring December 31st of each even-numbered year.
- B. RN's licensed in Mississippi shall complete a minimum of twenty (20) contact hours of accepted continuing education per renewed licensure period.
 - 1) New graduate RN's initially licensed in Mississippi by exam shall be exempt from this requirement for his initial licensure period.
 - 2) RNs may submit a maximum of ten (10) carryover hours from the prior renewed licensure period to satisfy this requirement.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 73-15-17 (1972, as amended).

Rule 1.6 APRN Requirements.

- A. The APRN renewed licensure period is two (2) calendar years beginning January 01st of each odd-numbered year and expiring December 31st of each even-numbered year.
- B. APRN's licensed in Mississippi shall complete a minimum of forty (40) contact hours of accepted continuing education per renewed licensure period.
 - 1) New graduate APRN's initially licensed in Mississippi by exam shall be exempt from this requirement for his initial licensure period.
 - 2) APRNs may submit a maximum of twenty (20) carryover hours from the prior renewed licensure period to satisfy this requirement.
 - 3) At least ten (10) contact hours of accepted continuing education must be directly related to controlled substances every renewed licensure period. Carryover hours may not be used to satisfy this requirement.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 73-15-17 (1972, as amended).

Rule 1.7 Accepted Continuing Education Reporting and Audits.

- A. A nurse shall, as part of the licensure renewal process, provide an attestation of the degree of compliance with all continuing education requirements, including but not limited to compliance with:
 - 1) Earning the required number of contact hours,
 - 2) The designated earning period,
 - 3) Content and acceptable activities,
 - 4) Not repeating the continuing education activity during the earning period for continuing education credit, and
 - 5) Any other requirements in these rules.
- B. A nurse shall maintain individual continuing education records for four (4) years following the year in which the units of measurement for continuing education were earned including but not limited to certificates, transcripts, or other documentation of attendance at continuing education activities to substantiate earned contact hours.

- C. The Board shall conduct periodic audits to ensure compliance with these rules.
- 1) If a nurse is selected as part of an audit, the nurse shall submit to the Board documented evidence of compliance with continuing education requirements, as outlined in these rules, within ten (10) business days of receiving such notification.
 - 2) Failure of a nurse to complete the required contact hours in compliance with these rules or failure to submit documented evidence of meeting continuing education requirements within ten (10) business days of notification of audit may subject the nurse to disciplinary action or other administrative sanction by the Board.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 73-15-17 (1972, as amended).