

Newfoundland and Labrador Psychology Board

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website: <http://www.nlpsychboard.ca>

Continuing Education Guidelines

In 2012, the Psychologists Act was amended such that an object of the board would “include continuing competency and quality improvement through continuing education” (Section 3) As such, a committee was formed to propose a program of requiring and accrediting continuing education for each individual psychologist.

A number of considerations guided the committee's thinking. Most important of these is that while continuing education should be viewed as a professional necessity, given the rural nature of Newfoundland and Labrador, a program of continuing education cannot be implemented by assuming that all psychologists in the province have access to formal educational opportunities on a regular, annual basis. As a result, the committee is proposing a mix of activities which can be used to document continuing education.

I. Rationale

1. The Psychologists Act mandates that an object of the board shall “include continuing competency and quality improvement through continuing education” (Section 3). As such, each fully registered psychologist shall document their participation in an acceptable programme and amount of continuing educational activities as a condition for annual renewal of registration.

II. Number of Hours Required

1. All psychologists who are fully registered shall engage in 25 hours of continuing education activities annually.
2. Psychologists who request inactive status may request a reduction at the time inactive status is sought be allowed and the board shall consider this request.
3. A psychologist who proposes to engage in a continuing education activity which spans 2 calendar years shall consult with the board in advance with respect to documentation of hours in each calendar year.

III. Continuing Education Activities

1. Continuing education activities shall be selected from the following categories:
 - A. Formal programmes of study to a maximum of 15 hours in any one calendar year;
 - i. Examples: formal coursework in psychology, accredited CPA/APA continuing education courses, formal workshops sponsored by a provincial psychology association.

- ii. Psychologists who engage in an accredited continuing education activity which provides more than 15 hours of credit may carry the remainder up to 30 total hours for that activity to the following year.

B. Self-study to a maximum of 10 hours in any one calendar year;

- i. Examples: documented study of professional journals, books, and professional online sources, documented preparation of workshops or coursework, documented consultation with appropriate specialist professionals with respect to an issue related to psychology.
- ii. A psychologist engaging in a specific, documented programme of self-study may request permission from the board to count additional hours in a single calendar year or to carry hours over to the following calendar year.

C. Structured professional activities to a maximum of 10 hours in any one calendar year;

- i. Examples: documented case conferences in which psychological issues are clearly the focus, documented committee or board work in which an exploration of psychological issues is the clear focus, peer consultations.

2. Limitation: No more than 15 hours may be counted in any one of these three areas of activities

3. Activities in the following areas may not be acceptable for meeting the continuing education requirements unless specifically allowed or directed by the Board:

A. Activities required as a condition of discipline;

B. Activities that the Quality Assurance Committee may require a psychologist to engage in.

4. All continuing educational activities shall be clearly and directly related to the field of or practice of psychology.

IV. Documentation

1. All psychologists will be required to provide a summary log of continuing education hours and sign a declaration annually prior to renewal of registration.

2. Members are encouraged to develop a continuing education plan annually.

3. Members are to keep copies of attendance and completion of work at formal continuing educational events, conferences and workshops, and a log of all other continuing education activities. The records of continuing education activities should identify the type of educational activity and the number of hours.

4. Records shall be kept for three years.

V. Monitoring

1. The Board will audit a subset of members annually with respect to continuing education. It is the psychologist's responsibility to be able to demonstrate to the auditor that the required continuing education hours have been completed.

2. Logs and other proof of continuing education hours may also be requested by the Quality Assurance Committee or as part of the process of receiving and hearing a complaint.

3. See the NLPB website for sample forms and logs for recording continuing education hours.