



Continuing Education Requirements for Acupuncture and Eastern Medicine Practitioners

Updated 4/12/2021

Click the boxes to read more details about the requirement.

In 2019 the WA state legislature passed SHB 1865 which mandated continuing education (CE) requirement for acupuncture and Eastern Medicine practitioners (AEMPs). The bill requiring CE's was incorporated into the statute regulating AEMPs, RCW 18.06.240 ([Click for details](#))

Qualifying CE activities are topics related to the scope of practice of acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioners ([Click for details](#))

The AEMP license will still be renewed annually on the licensee's birthday, with the continuing education hours due starting two years from May 1, 2021 ([See timeline for example](#))

The licensee is responsible for tracking their CE activities. Documentation is not required to be submitted for license renewal unless audited by the Department of Health ([Click to see documentation guidelines](#))

The rule states that a minimum of twenty hours of continuing education is required every two years ([Click for details](#))

Alternatively, a current diplomate status with the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) will meet the Washington CE requirements ([Click for details](#))

Whether or not a licensee has NCCAOM diplomate status there is a requirement for all Washington state AEMPs to take a one time 6-hour class in suicide prevention ([Click for details](#))

Licensees must maintain current CPR and basic First Aid certification ([Click for details](#))

Suicide prevention training is a new one time requirement. There is also a Telehealth medicine training required for those wanting to use this tool. CPR must be kept up to date. All these specific training count toward the 20 CE hours due every 2 years.



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WAC 246-803-420

The goal of continuing education is to encourage the lifetime development of the licensed acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner, and enhance the professional skills and judgment needed to protect the health and safety of all patients.

- (1) A licensed acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner shall complete a minimum of twenty hours of continuing education every two years.



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- (4) Continuing education must contribute to the professional knowledge and development of the licensed acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner or enhance services provided to patients or public health and safety. Continuing education must be completed in one or more of the following categories:
- (a) Educational courses as listed in RCW 18.06.050 relating to the practice of health care, western clinical sciences, acupuncture, or acupuncture and Eastern medicine;
 - (b) Emergency management or disaster preparedness;
 - (c) Infection control and federal/state safety standards;
 - (d) Ethics;
 - (e) Patient care related education including patient communication, risk management, methods of health delivery, cultural diversity, and suicide prevention education;
 - (f) Washington state acupuncture and Eastern medicine law;
 - (g) Patient communication;
 - (h) Practice management and billing practices. A licensed acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner may not count more than ten hours every two years in this category.
- (5) Continuing education in subject categories identified in subsection (4) of this section may be completed using any of the following activities or methods:
- (a) Attendance at local, state, national, or international education courses, live interactive webinars, postdoctoral education, and study clubs. A study club is defined as two or more practitioners meeting to discuss topics relative to their health care practice;
 - (b) Self-study by various means, relevant to acupuncture or acupuncture and Eastern medicine, without an instructor physically present.
 - (i) Self-study can be continuing education provided online or through the mail provided by a continuing education provider.
 - (A) A licensee must have documentation of course completion; or
 - (B) Provide a two-page synopsis of what was learned written by the licensed acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner is required. Two hours of continuing education for each synopsis will be granted. A licensed acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner may earn up to a maximum of six hours every two years for this activity.

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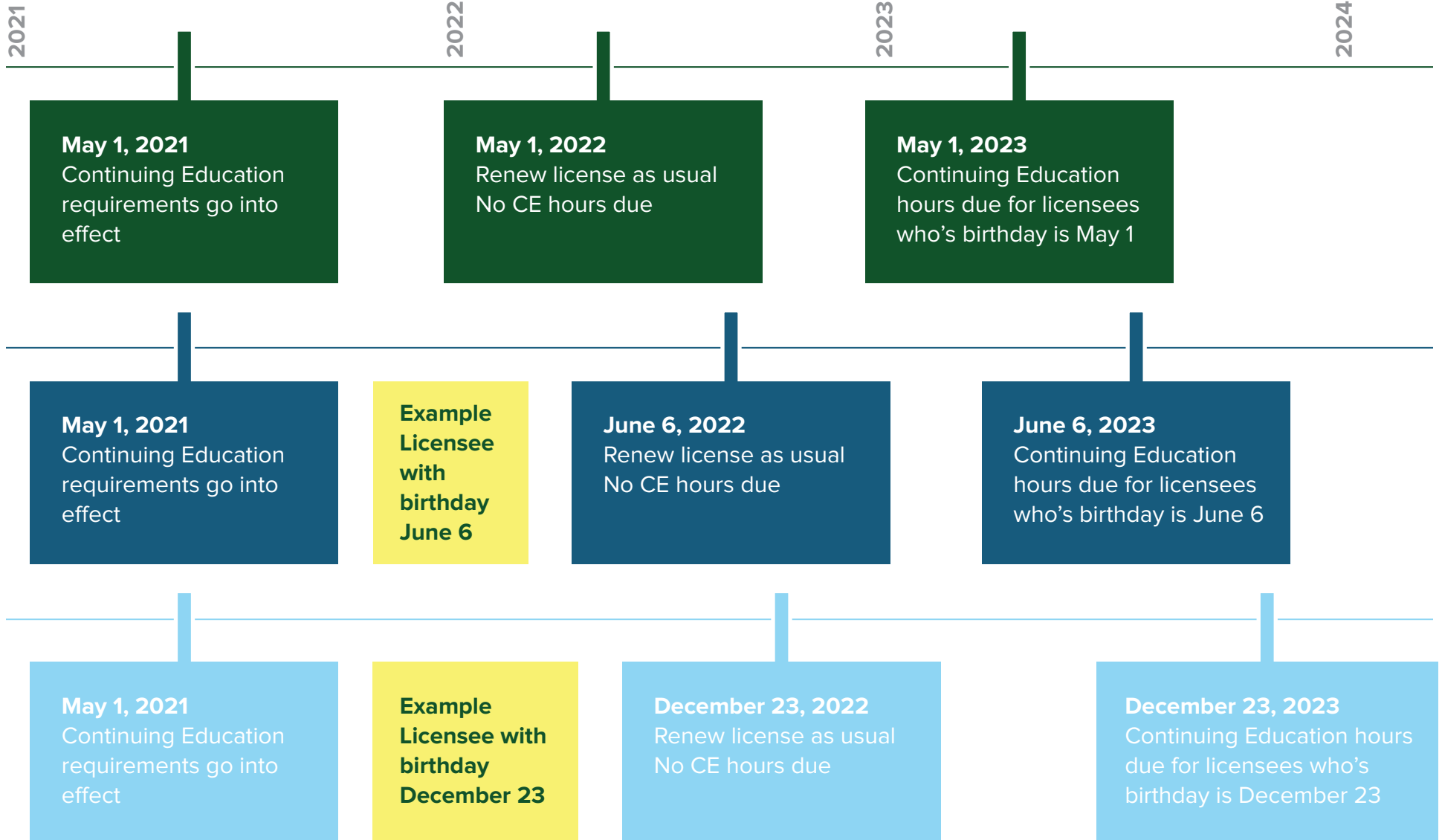
- (ii) Self-study can be reading a book that contributes to the professional knowledge and development of the licensed acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner, or enhance services provided to patients. A two-page synopsis of what was learned written by the licensed acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner is required. Two hours of continuing education for each book and synopsis will be granted. A licensed acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner may earn up to a maximum of six hours every two years for this activity.
 - (c) Teaching, presenting, or lecturing in a course, only if the presentation or lecture is created or authored by the acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner claiming the continuing education hours, may earn up to a maximum of ten hours every two years;
 - (d) Panelist at a conference or seminar for health care providers. Up to a maximum of two hours may be applied per topic in the two-year period;
 - (e) Primary author of published multimedia material including, but not limited to: CD, audio, or video. Up to a maximum of five hours may be applied per publication in the two-year period;
 - (f) Participating member of a clinical research study team. Up to a maximum of ten hours may be applied in the two-year period;
 - (g) Direct clinical supervision of acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine students in a school verified externship, internship, or preceptorship, may earn up to a maximum of ten hours every two years;
 - (h) Acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine licensure examinations or serving on an acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine professional board, committee or association may earn up to a maximum of ten hours every two years;
 - (i) Publishing a paper in a peer review journal up to a maximum of five hours the year the paper is published; and
 - (j) Provision of clinical acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine patient care services in a documented volunteer capacity, may earn up to a maximum of ten hours every two years.
- (6) The department may not accept any claim of credit for a continuing education course that does not meet the requirements of subsection (4) or (5) of this section.



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The goal of continuing education is to encourage the lifetime development of the licensed acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner, and enhance the professional skills and judgment needed to protect the health and safety of all patients.

- (1) A licensed acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner shall complete a minimum of twenty hours of continuing education every two years.
 - (a) The two-year continuing education reporting period for an acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner licensed in Washington before April 30, 2021, begins May 1, 2021, and verification of completion of continuing education hours will be due on the acupuncturist's or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner's annual license renewal date in 2023, and every two years thereafter. The two-year continuing education reporting period for an acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner initially licensed in Washington on or after May 1, 2021, begins upon date of licensure.



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- (7) Proof of continuing education is a certificate of completion, letter, or other documentation verifying or confirming attendance or completion of continuing education hours. Documentation must be from the organization that provided the activity, except in subsection (5)(b)(i) and (ii), and (c) of this section, and must contain at least the following:
- (a) Date of attendance or completion;
 - (b) Name of licensed acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner;
 - (c) Hours earned; and
 - (d) Course title or subject.
- (8) Upon showing good cause by the licensed acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner in writing, the department may waive the acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner from any, all, or part of the continuing education requirements in this chapter or may grant additional time for the acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner to complete the requirements. Good cause includes, but is not limited to:
- (a) Illness;
 - (b) Medical necessity or family emergency;
 - (c) Hardship to practice; or
 - (d) Other extenuating circumstances.



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- (a) The two-year continuing education reporting period for an acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner licensed in Washington before April 30, 2021, begins May 1, 2021, and verification of completion of continuing education hours will be due on the acupuncturist's or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner's annual license renewal date in 2023, and every two years there- after. The two-year continuing education reporting period for an acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner initially licensed in Washington on or after May 1, 2021, begins upon date of licensure.
- (b) A licensed acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner shall attest to the completion of twenty hours of continuing education every two years as a part of their license renewal requirement.
- (c) The department of health (department) may randomly audit up to twenty-five percent of licensed acupuncturists or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioners every two years for compliance after the license is renewed as allowed by chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 7.
- (d) A licensed acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner shall comply with the requirements of chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 7.
- (e) The department will not authorize or approve specific continuing education courses.



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- (2) A licensed acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner may alternatively meet the requirement of twenty hours of continuing education every two years if they hold a current diplomate status from the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM). The required documentation is proof of diplomate status during the two-year period.



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Approved Trainings for Suicide Prevention:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/ForPublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/HealthcareProfessionsand-Facilities/SuicidePrevention/TrainingPrograms/ModelList>

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Suicide prevention education. Effective June 11, 2020, a licensed acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner must complete a department-approved one-time training that is at least six hours in length for suicide assessment that includes assessment, treatment, and management.

- (1) This training must be completed by the end of the first full continuing education reporting period after August 1, 2021, or during the first full continuing education reporting period after initial licensure, whichever is later.
- (2) Training approved by the department for this requirement must be on the department's model list as authorized in chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 14.
- (3) Training completed between June 11, 2020, and August 1, 2021, that meets the requirements of this section, is accepted as meeting the one-time training requirement of this section.
- (4) The hours spent completing the training in suicide assessment under this section count toward meeting applicable continuing education requirements for acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner license renewal.



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- (3) A licensed acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner shall maintain a current cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and basic first aid certification. A licensed acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner may count the actual hours earned per renewal cycle for this requirement.