



The Basics on Mandatory Continuing Education for Veterinary Technician Licensure October 8, 2020

Mandatory continuing education overview

Mandatory CE for veterinary technicians became law in 2016. For license **renewals**, beginning on December 31, 2022, an applicant for a veterinary technician license renewal who held a license for the 3-year period immediately preceding the expiration date of the license shall have earned, within the 3-year period immediately preceding the date of the application, **15 hours** of approved continuing education. Requirements for **lapsed licenses** are different. Applicants for relicensure may already have to show proof of CE.

When will mandatory CE take affect?

For license **renewals**, the first group of veterinary technicians who need to have completed CE are those with a license expiring on December 31, 2022. These veterinary technicians can start tracking and documenting their CE in 2020. All renewals after December 31, 2022 must also be in compliance with the CE requirements.

How much CE do veterinary technicians need to comply with the law?

Veterinary technicians are required to complete 15 hours of CE every 3 years. The license renewal cycle is every three years, so every time your license renews on or after December 31, 2022, you will need to have completed 15 hours of CE.

What will be counted as CE?

The full rules for veterinary technicians can be found through the LARA website here: https://www.michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-89334_72600_72603_27529_27555---,00.html

However, MVMA has tried to simplify it by providing the following.

Overall rules for veterinary technicians:

- No more than 12 hours can be earned during a 24-hour period.
- Credit for a program or activity that is substantially identical to a program or activity which the licensee has already earned during the renewal period will not be granted.
- A minimum of 10 hours must be scientific in nature (includes the science of diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease as it relates directly to a patient or topics such as public veterinary practice, epidemiology, food safety, public health, animal welfare or antimicrobial stewardship).
- A minimum of 5 hours shall be completed in person.

All CE given by the following entities will count:

- Michigan Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA)

- American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)
- AAVSB Registry of Continuing Education (RACE)
- World Veterinary Association (WVA)
- Michigan Association of Veterinary Technicians (MAVT)
- Local, state or regional professional association
- Member Institutions of the Association of the American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC)
- AVMA constituent allied organizations and recognized veterinary specialty organizations
- A state veterinary board of another state
- AVMA accredited veterinary technician program

A maximum of 2 hours of CE may be counted from programs given by the following entities:

- American Medical Association
- Michigan State Medical Society
- Accreditation Council for CME
- American Osteopathic Association
- Michigan Osteopathic Association
- Educational courses offered by regionally accredited college and universities relating to the husbandry of food producing animals

Other activities that count:

- A maximum of 5 hours of CE is granted for individuals presenting a CE program related to practice as a veterinary technician for most of the above-mentioned entities (see details in rules). This cannot be the licensee's primary employment function.
- A maximum of 5 hours of CE is granted for serving as the primary author or 2 hours as the secondary author on initial publication of an article related to practice as a veterinary technician in a peer-reviewed journal.
- A maximum of 5 hours of CE is granted for serving as the primary author or 2 hours as the secondary author on initial publication of a chapter related to practice as a veterinary technician in a professional or peer-reviewed text book.
- A maximum of 5 hours of CE is granted for individuals serving as a clinical instructor for veterinary technician students. This cannot be the licensee's primary employment function.
- 2 hours of CE is granted for individuals participating on a state or national committee, board, council or association related to practice as a veterinary technician.
- A minimum of 10 hours shall be completed in person.

What is considered proof of CE?

A number of veterinary technicians will be randomly audited each year for proof that they have complied with the CE requirements. If audited, the licensee shall submit a copy of a letter or certificate of completion showing the licensee's name, number of CE hours earned, the sponsor's name or name of the organization that approved the activity and the date on which the program was held or the activity completed. If the CE is for presenting a CE program, authoring an article or chapter, acting as an instructor,

participating on a group or providing supervision to a disciplinarily limited veterinarian see the full rules for specific information.

How long do I need to keep documentation of my CE?

Documentation must be kept for 4 years from the date you apply to renew your license. LARA could request that you submit this documentation as proof at any time during the 4 years.