

Notice to Licensees Regarding Continuing Education for the Renewal Cycle Ending January 31, 2021

Due to COVID-19, the SC Board of Landscape Architectural Examiners has voted to allow the 20 hours of continuing education for the reporting period of February 1, 2019 – January 31, 2021, to be done as self-directed study. This means that all continuing education activities may be obtained through online courses or other self-directed activities for this reporting period.

This is a one time exemption that has been approved due to COVID-19 and will only apply to the February 1, 2019 – January 31, 2021 reporting period.

The Board will resume the requirement for structured educational activities for the reporting period of February 1, 2021 – January 31, 2023. Please note that new regulations went into effect on June 26, 2020, that will affect renewals for this reporting period. The purpose of the change is to clarify requirements for the required 20 hours for each license renewal.

There are two categories of continuing education:

Category 1 – A minimum of fifteen (15) hours of the required twenty (20) hours shall be earned by completing educational activities that directly address health, safety, and welfare.

Health/Safety/Welfare (HSW) educational topic should address the performance of landscape architecture as defined in S.C. Code Section 40-28-20(6). This includes structured educational activities such as technical presentations, workshops, or seminars on landscape architectural subjects which are provided by independent sponsors or held in conjunction with colleges, universities, conventions, or seminars. Activities sponsored or approved by ASLA, CLARB, and LACES will remain automatically approved in this category.

Category 2 – A maximum of five (5) hours of the required twenty (20) hours may be completed in practice-related topics that enhance and expand the skills, knowledge, and abilities of practicing landscape architects to remain current and render competent professional service to clients and the public. This includes activities such as public service, authoring papers, articles, or books, individuated seminars, tutorials, or video courses, or teaching landscape architectural courses or seminars. Licensees are not required to obtain continuing education in this category, however, note that there is a limit that a maximum of five (5) of the twenty (20) hours can be applied from this category.

The second change is that the period of time to make up disallowed hours is being changed from one hundred eighty (180) days to forty-five (45) days.

The other requirements remain the same, with only minor changes to clarify verbiage in the regulations. You can view the updated regulations that will go into full effect with the February 1, 2021 – January 31, 2023 reporting period at <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/coderegs/Chapter%2076.pdf> (Chapter 76-6).

Questions regarding the proposed regulation changes can be addressed to the Board staff at (803)896-4580 or at Contact.LSA@llr.sc.gov.