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Chapter A-E 11

CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

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A-E 11.01 Authority and purpose. The rules in this chapter are adopted under the authority in ss. 15.08 (5) (b), 227.11 (2) and 443.015, Stats., and govern biennial continuing education of landscape architect registrants.

History: CR 09-081: cr. Register June 2010 No. 654, eff. 7-1-10.

A-E 11.02 Definitions. As used in this chapter:

(1) “Biennium” means a 2-year period beginning August 1 of each even numbered year.

(2) “Continuing education” means the planned, professional development activities designed to contribute to the advancement, extension and enhancement of the professional skills and scientific knowledge of the registrant in the practice of landscape architecture for the benefit of the health, safety and welfare of the public.

(3) “Continuing education hour” means 50 minutes of instruction or participation spent by the registrant in actual attendance or completion of an approved educational activity.

(4) “Health, safety and welfare” or “HSW” means any topics or subjects related to the practice of landscape architecture which are deemed appropriate to safeguard the public health, safety and welfare, including the proper planning, design and construction of buildings, structures, infrastructures, and the spaces within and surrounding buildings and structures that meet the following criteria:

- (a) Minimize the risk of injury to persons or property and comply with applicable building and safety codes.
- (b) Are durable, environmentally friendly, cost effective, and conserve resources.
- (c) Are aesthetically appealing.
- (d) Function properly in all relevant respects.
- (e) Enhance the public’s sense of well-being, harmony and integration with the surrounding environment.

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A-E 11.03 Continuing education requirements.

(1) (a) Prior to the August 2012 biennial registration period and in each biennial registration period thereafter, unless granted a waiver under s. A-E 11.07, every registrant shall complete at least 24 hours of approved continuing education except that between initial registration and the first renewal period a new registrant is not required to comply with the requirements for the first renewal of registration.

(b) Continuing education shall be in the topics or subject areas of landscape architecture, building design, landscape design, environmental or land use analysis, life safety, landscape architectural programming, site planning, site and soils analyses, plant material, accessibility, lateral forces, selection of building systems and structural systems, construction methods, contract documentation and construction administration, or the Wisconsin statutes and rules regulating landscape architects.

(c) No less than 16 hours shall be in HSW topics.

(d) No less than 2 hours shall be in professional conduct and ethics.

(2) Continuing education activities that will meet the requirements of sub. (1) include the following:

(a) Online, correspondence, televised, videotaped, or other short courses or tutorials.

(b) A college or university course in the area of landscape architecture or related sciences. One college or university semester credit hour of course work is equivalent to 16 continuing education hours and one college or university quarter credit hour of course work is equivalent to 12 continuing education hours.

(c) Landscape architecture programs, seminars, tutorials, workshops, short courses or in-house courses conducted by an instructor where the student and instructor interact simultaneously in real-time, including traditional classroom or live events.

(d) Presentations at related technical or professional meetings at which at least one hour is spent discussing landscape architecture or attending a lecture on related topics, or both. Each qualified meeting may be awarded one continuing education hour.

(e) Teaching courses or programs on landscape architecture topics. Teaching credit may be counted for teaching a course for the first time only and does not apply to faculty in the performance of their regularly assigned duties. Three continuing education hours shall be awarded for every 50 minutes of teaching or presentation, not to exceed a total of 6 hours per biennium.

(f) Authoring landscape architecture related papers or articles that appear in circulated journals or trade magazines. One continuing education hour may be awarded for every 50 minutes spent in authoring a landscape architecture related paper or article which is published in a circulated journal, not to exceed a total of 6 hours per biennium.

(g) Serving as a jury panel member on a professional landscape architect work or design competition.

(h) Providing professional service to the public by serving as an officer or committee member of a technical or professional society, board, commission or other organization related to landscape architecture. Two continuing education hours shall be awarded for one full year of service, not to exceed a total of 2 hours per biennium.

(i) Educational tours of landscape architecturally significant projects which are sponsored by a college, professional organization or system supplier, not to exceed 8 continuing education hours per biennium.

(3) Continuing education hours shall be completed within the 2 year period prior to the registration renewal date.

(4) A landscape architect who fails to meet the continuing education requirements by the renewal date, as specified in s. 440.08 (2) (a) 38m., Stats., may not engage in the practice of landscape architecture until the registration is renewed based upon compliance with the continuing education requirements, unless granted a waiver under s. A-E 11.07.

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A-E 11.04 Standards for approval. (1) To be approved for credit, a continuing education activity shall meet all of the following criteria:

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(a) The activity constitutes an organized method of instruction which contributes directly to the professional competency of the registrant and pertains to subject matters which integrally relate to the practice of the profession.

(b) The activity is conducted by individuals who have specialized education, training or experience and are considered qualified concerning the subject matter of the program.

(c) The activity provides proof of attendance or completion by the registrant and fulfills pre-established goals and objectives.

(2) Approved providers of continuing education programs may include the following:

- (a) American Society of Landscape Architects.
- (b) Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards.
- (c) Urban Land Institute.
- (d) American Nursery and Landscape Association.
- (e) American Planning Association.
- (f) National Society of Professional Engineers.
- (g) National Recreation and Park Association.
- (h) American Institute of Architects.
- (i) Construction Specifications Institute.
- (j) State or federal training programs.
- (k) Colleges, universities or other educational institutions.

(3) The landscape architect section or its designee may make recommendations as to approval of continuing education hour value for activities and other methods of earning credit offered by providers not listed in sub. (2) (a) to (k).

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A-E 11.05 Certificate of completion, proof of attendance. (1) Each registrant shall certify on the renewal application full compliance with the continuing education requirements set forth in this chapter.

(2) The landscape architect section may conduct a random audit of its registrants on a biennial basis for compliance with these requirements. If audited, a registrant shall provide evidence of compliance.

(3) The landscape architect section may require additional evidence demonstrating compliance with the continuing education requirements including a certificate of attendance or documentation of completion or credit for the courses completed.

(4) If a registrant appears to lack compliance with the continuing education requirements, the landscape architect section shall notify a registrant in writing and request submission of evidence of compliance within 30 days of the notice.

(5) The landscape architect section may require a registrant to appear for an interview to address any deficiency or lack of compliance with the continuing education requirements.

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A-E 11.06 Recordkeeping. The registrant shall maintain records of continuing education for at least 4 years from the date of the program. The recordkeeping shall include all of the following:

- (1) The name and address of the sponsor or provider.
- (2) A brief statement of the subject matter.
- (3) Printed schedules, registration receipts, certificates of attendance, or other proof of participation.
- (4) The number of hours attended in each activity and the date and place of the activity.

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A-E 11.07 Waiver of continuing education. (1) In this section, "extreme hardship" means an inability to fulfill the continuing education requirements during the applicable renewal period because of one of the following:

(a) Full-time service in the uniformed services of the United States of America for a period of one year during the biennium.

(b) An incapacitating illness documented by a statement from a licensed health care provider resulting in an inability to participate in a continuing education activity.

(c) A retirement from the occupation of landscape architecture whereby the renewal applicant no longer receives remuneration from providing landscape architecture services.

(d) Any other extenuating circumstances.

(2) A renewal applicant seeking renewal of registration without having fully complied with the continuing education requirements shall file a renewal application along with the required fee, and a statement setting forth the facts concerning non-compliance and requesting a waiver of the requirements. The request for waiver shall be submitted to the landscape architect section prior to the renewal date. Extreme hardship shall be determined on an individual basis by the landscape architect section. If the landscape architect section finds, based upon the affidavit or any other evidence submitted by the registrant that extreme hardship has been shown, the enforcement of the continuing education requirements for the applicable renewal period shall be waived or the time frame for completion extended.

(3) A renewal applicant who prior to the expiration of the license submits a request for a waiver, shall be deemed to be in good standing until the final decision on the application by the landscape architect section.

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A-E 11.08 Reciprocity. An applicant for registration from another state who applies for registration to practice landscape architecture under s. A-E 9.06, may receive credit for completion of continuing education obtained in another jurisdiction within the 2 years prior to application if the landscape architect section determines that the continuing education is substantially equivalent to the requirements of this chapter.

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