

Continuing Education – Frequently Asked Questions.

Are you a recent graduate of the UC Denver School of Pharmacy and do you need to complete continuing education credits but don't know how? Here are some tips for navigating CE options.

The following questions and answers have been developed based upon information provided by the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) and are interpretations of the requirements outlined on its website. Check with the Colorado Pharmacists Society and/or your state licensing board to confirm all information provided below.

1. How many hours of CE do I need to maintain my license?

The state of Colorado requires each pharmacist complete 24 hours of ACPE approved continuing education every two years. Deadline for completing CE credits is October 31. For more information about the laws regulating Colorado pharmacists visit

<http://www.dora.state.co.us/pharmacy/pha/CErequirements.html>

2. How do I know if a CE program is ACPE-accredited?

To determine if a program is accredited by ACPE, look for the ACPE logo and a fourteen-digit program number on information brochures regarding the program. If the program number is followed by a "P", it is accredited for pharmacists. If the program number is followed by a "T", it is approved for technicians.



At this time, pharmacists can attend technician programs, but credits from technician programs cannot be used for re-licensure.

3. Do I need a specific type of CE credit each year to maintain my license in Colorado?

Colorado does not specify any certain types of CE as long as the programs are ACPE approved.

4. Once CE credits are obtained, how are the credits recorded with the State Board of Pharmacy?

You are responsible for keeping a record of your credits. The board does not collect records of CE credits except during an audit. Up to 5% of pharmacists can be audited during any licensing period. If you are audited, you will need to submit copies of all the 24 hours of CE you've obtained during the licensing period ending on October 31. If you are not audited, you simply check a box asserting that you have obtained the 24 hours of CE. Obviously, it's important to keep your CE records, since you never know when you will be audited.

5. What should I do with the CE statement of credit (certificate) that I receive?

Keep the CE statement of credit in your records at home. However, if you lose or misplace it, the accredited organization that issued the statement is required to maintain those records for six years.

6. If I have moved from Colorado, are my CE credits valid in other states?

Each state has different requirements. Check with the board of pharmacy in the state in which you are licensed.

7. How soon after graduation do I need to obtain CE credits?

According to the requirements provided by the Department of Regulating Agencies in Colorado (DORA), if a student becomes licensed within 1 year of completing his or her pharmacy education, He/she will not be required to have CE for the first licensing period. So, if you are a 2008 graduate, you will begin collecting CE credits **after** October 31, 2009.

8. Are CE credits waived during a residency?

If as a resident pharmacist you are maintaining your license, then you must fulfill the CE requirements. If you have a license from a state other than Colorado, the rules of that state will apply. So, check with your state's board of pharmacy.

9. Are all the programs offered by UCD School of Pharmacy approved for CE credit in Colorado?

Because the School of Pharmacy schedules many seminars and series on a variety of topics, not all are accredited for CE. Any program that is accredited for pharmacist CE will show the ACPE logo and approved number of credits.

10. Who offers courses?

UCD School of Pharmacy

www.uchsc.edu/sop/conted/3.Upcoming_Programs.html) currently offers a limited number of courses through the Office of Postgraduate Professional Education (OPPE). Upcoming CE programs from the School of Pharmacy are announced in the CE portion of the SOP website at www.uchsc.edu/sop/conted/3.Upcoming_Programs.html

American Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) (www.acpe-accredit.org) provides a searchable database of accredited programs around the country. At the ACPE website, select P.L.A.N. (Pharmacists' Learning Assistance Network), then enter parameters such as program format (home study, live), location, date range, and topic to find a suitable CE program.

The **American Pharmacists Association** (www.pharmacist.com) offers a variety of CE programs to member and nonmember pharmacists through their Internet site.

The [American Society of Health-System Pharmacists](http://www.ashp.org/virtual-ce/) (www.ashp.org/virtual-ce/) hosts a Learning Center containing CE resources for pharmacists.

The [Colorado Pharmacists Society](http://www.copharm.org) (www.copharm.org) offers regularly scheduled, ACPE accredited, continuing education programs to fit a variety of schedules.

In addition, there are for profit entities that offer a wide variety of CE programs, in both live and home study formats. Just search Google.com for additional resources.

11. How to get started on obtaining your CE credits?

Check out the courses that are currently available through the organizations listed above. Then follow the registration instructions.

12. Sign up for notification of courses

Check back for CEs and events on the SOPs facebook page.

13. Upcoming CE courses organized by the UCD School of Pharmacy: www.uchsc.edu/sop/conted/3.Upcoming_Programs.html

May 14. *Stemming the Tide of Diabetes: the Role of Pharmacists in Treatment and Education*, May 14 at Anschutz Medical Campus (2-hour ACPE-accredited program).

May 18. *A Review of What You Need to Know to Take the Colorado Jurisprudence Exam*. May 18, 9 a.m. – 4.30 p.m. at Anschutz Medical Campus. ACPE accreditation for 6 contact hours is in process.