

**Date:** September 13, 2023

**Topic:** Continuing Education Credits

**Issue:** Upon review during audits, several applications include continuing education credits that were all accrued within the month of renewal and obtained from mostly online sources including options that do not include any type of live learning but include literature review with a post test. The board thanks licensees who pursue high quality continuing education credits, but has concerns about the quality of some continuing education credits being submitted.

**Position Statement:**

Marriage and Family Therapists are committed to upholding the AAMFT Code of Ethics. In particular, Marriage and Family Therapists are dedicated to meeting competency standards in the field as well as growing knowledge and competencies according to AAMFT Code of Ethics: 3.1 Maintenance of Competency, 3.6 Development of New Skills, and 7.3 Competence. Additionally, Marriage and Family Therapists aspire to core values, including “distinctiveness and excellence in training of marriage and family therapists and those desiring to advance their skills, knowledge and expertise in systemic and relational therapies” as well as “innovation and the advancement of knowledge of systemic and relational therapies.”

**Rules:**

**[NCMFTLB Published Guidelines](#)**

**NC Administrative Code 21 NCAC 31.0701 Requirements for Continuing Education** states that licensure renewals require 20 continuing education credits annually. Three of the 20 must include MFT relevant ethics. Random audits are completed of renewal applications to review the type and quality of continuing education credits submitted. In order to uphold these standards, the NC Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Board will be reviewing submitted CEUs more intentionally and recommends the following for licensees:

**Recommendations:**

- 1) Licensees should identify continuing education opportunities that grow their knowledge and competencies versus solely to meet a licensing renewal requirement.
- 2) Licensees should pursue live learning events for continuing education whenever possible to be exposed to opportunities to ask questions, engage in dialogue, and engage in active learning.
- 3) Licensees should make every effort to attend continuing education events relevant to the field of marriage and family therapy. Areas of concentration can include but are not limited to: documentation, ethics, cultural humility, mandated reporting, informed consent, confidentiality, and clinical practice.
- 4) Continuing education credits solely from reading and test taking should be avoided.
- 5) Licensees should make every effort to pursue advanced training in their areas of competency or to expand competencies.
- 6) Licensees should treat the calendar year as an ongoing opportunity for learning and pursue continuing education credits throughout the year.