

What is the definition of Core, Related, and Ethics CE hours?

For a complete explanation of Composite Board Rules go to [http://sos.ga.gov/index.php/licensing/plb/43-Rule 135-9-.01](http://sos.ga.gov/index.php/licensing/plb/43-Rule%20135-9-.01). According to the Composite Board, requirements include:

Core hours are continuing education hours acquired in activities in the specialty in which the license is held; e.g. Professional Counseling core hours must reflect PC content, Social Work core hours must reflect SW content and Marriage Family Therapy core hours must reflect MFT content. Core hours may be obtained through graduate level education, conferences, workshops, seminars, or on-line courses approved for continuing education by organizations authorized to offer continuing education credit. Such activities shall be sponsored, co-sponsored or approved by:

- (a) a professional association in the specialty in which the license is held; or
- (b) an academic department in the specialty in which the license is held:
 - 1. Graduate level coursework will meet continuing education requirements only when offered by an academic department in the specialty in which the license is held and when the department is in an education institution accredited by a body acceptable to the Board. Graduate level coursework listed on the transcript as "independent studies" must be well documented in order to be accepted by the Composite Board. Documentation can include, but is not limited to, a contract signed by the instructor of record.
 - 2. One (1) academic semester hour of graduate level coursework shall be equivalent to fifteen (15) hours of continuing education, and an one (1) academic quarter hour of course credit shall be equivalent to ten (10) clock hours of continuing education, or
- (c) a licensing or certification board in another jurisdiction which regulates the specialty in which the license is held. If the board is a composite board, the activity must be specifically approved for continuing education in the specialty in which the license is held.

Related hours are continuing education hours acquired in activities in a specialty other than the one in which the license is held or in the allied professions of Psychiatry, Psychiatric Nursing, Psychology, or Pastoral Counseling. Related hours may be obtained from:

- (a) activities sponsored, co-sponsored, or approved by professional associations in the specialties of Professional Counseling, Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy or the allied professions for Psychiatry, Psychiatric Nursing, Psychology, Pastoral Counseling, or allied health specialties, or

- (b) activities sponsored, co-sponsored, or approved by an academic department in the specialties of Professional Counseling, Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy or the allied professions of Psychiatry, Psychiatric Nursing, Psychology, or Pastoral Counseling.
 1. Graduate level coursework will meet continuing education requirements only when offered by an academic department in the specialties of Professional Counseling, Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy or the allied professions of Psychiatry, Psychiatric Nursing, Psychology, or Pastoral Counseling and the department is in an education institution accredited by a body acceptable to the Board.
 2. One (1) academic semester hour of graduate level coursework shall be equivalent of fifteen (15) clock hours of continuing education, and an one (1) academic quarter hour of course credit shall be equivalent to ten (10) clock hours of continuing education; or

- (c) activities sponsored, co-sponsored, or approved by a licensing or certification board in another jurisdiction which regulates the specialties of Professional Counseling, Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy or the allied professions of Psychiatry, Psychiatric Nursing, Psychology, or Pastoral Counseling; or

- (d) activities sponsored by federal, state, or local government agencies, public school systems and licensed hospitals; or

Ethics hours may be obtained from any of the sources listed under Core and Related hours paragraphs listed above. Continuing education hours in professional ethics can be obtained online through synchronous activities only. **Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. r. 135-9-.01 Requirements - Beginning October 01, 2020**