

BCD STANDARDS FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

Continuing Education (CE) is an important part of advanced practice. ABE requires that the BCD clinician amass a minimum of 20 clock hours of clinical CE annually in order to maintain the BCD. This CE may be *formal or informal*, as related below. ABE does not pre-approve specific CE activities but does require that they directly address the professional practice of clinical social work and meet the guidelines listed below.

Formal Activities Formal CE activities are: verifiable courses, practice-oriented seminars, workshops, staff development activities, webinars, podcasts, or other forms of "distance learning" - all must be verifiable and accredited/offered by state licensing boards, professional associations, and graduate schools.

Informal Activities Informal CE activities include clinical learning at structured social work meetings and discussions, including the following:

- **Staff meetings** focused on clinical social work methods or theory but not on specific cases or administrative matters;
- **Speaker presentations** (at professional society meetings) addressing clinical social work methods, theories, or issues;
- **Peer-group meetings, panel discussions, and study groups**, in which practitioners discuss clinical social work methods, theories, or issues.

Teaching ABE extends time-and-a-half credit to BCD clinicians who, in the past two years, taught a college-level clinical social work course or an advanced clinical social work workshop for the first time (verifiable by the sponsoring organization).

Publications ABE extends 10 credits to BCD clinicians who, in the past two years, have published a clinical social work article or book chapter in a peer-reviewed social work or related journal or book.

Documentation of Activities. Some BCD holders annually are asked to furnish documentation of continuing education activities. You will be notified if you are in that group.

For formal activities, ABE requires photocopies of a certificate or a letter from the event's sponsor or instructor (including your name, date, CE hours attained, and, if needed, the course syllabus or conference brochure), or a description of the activity (with participants, date, topics, and duration) signed by the coordinator or group leader.

For informal activities, provide a document that summarizes the activity and its clinical social work content, with date, duration, name/title of leader/coordinator, mention of participants (e.g. clinical staff of Acme Hospital), indication of your attendance, and signature of person responsible.

Do not submit documentation of continuing education to ABE unless requested.