

## **CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR PROFESSIONAL LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS LICENSED IN MISSOURI**

**ALL PERSONS LICENSED AS A PROFESSIONAL LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT** in the state of Missouri must acquire 24 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) every two years before renewing their license. At least sixteen (16) CEUs shall be related to health, safety, and welfare (HSW) acquired in structured educational activities; however, if the licensee wishes he or she may acquire all twenty-four (24) hours in such HSW subjects and activities. All licensed professional landscape architects will be required to maintain a list of activities they attended and sign a statement that they have met this requirement before renewing. If the licensee is audited, he/she will be asked to submit proof of attendance at these activities.

**PURPOSE** of this requirement is to reinforce the need for lifelong learning in order to stay current with changing technology, equipment, procedures, processes, tools and established standards. Qualifying activities must have a clear purpose and objective which will maintain, improve or expand the skills and knowledge relevant to the practice of landscape architecture and necessary to safeguard life, health, property and promote the public welfare. The licensee is given flexibility in selecting among a broad range of subjects that are intended to strengthen or maintain competency in technical, managerial (business) or ethical fields. Licensees are encouraged to select meaningful activities which will be of benefit in the pursuit of their chosen field.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION UNIT (CEU)** is defined as one nominal contact hour of instruction or presentation. The maximum CEU for a seminar that starts at 8 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m. with an hour lunch is eight (8) CEUs. Short breaks are permissible as long as a minimum of 50 minutes of presentation/participation per hour is undertaken. If there are no breaks, or there are breaks of less than 10 minutes per hour, no additional time may be claimed. Seminar presenters may attempt to take the number of elapsed minutes (such as 8 hours times 60 minutes) and then divide by 50 to arrive at the CEU for which the seminar is advertised. This would result in over nine CEUs in an eight-hour period which is not permitted. CEUs cannot exceed the actual contact clock hours.

**ROUND** off CEUs to the nearest half-hour. **No activity under a half-hour will be accepted for credit.** For example, a qualifying activity of 30 to 49 minutes would be reported as 0.5 CEU and an activity of 50 to 60 minutes would be reported as 1.0 CEU.

**CARRYOVERS** of a maximum of 12 qualifying CEUs may be forwarded to the subsequent renewal period.

**DUALLY LICENSED PROFESSIONAL LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS** must earn a total of 24 CEUs every two years for renewal of their landscape architectural license in addition to any other credits required for the renewal of an architectural, engineering or land surveying license.

*(Revised August 2014)*

**CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS ACQUIRED AT LOCATIONS OTHER THAN MISSOURI** will be allowed for renewal so long as the content meets the requirements of Board Rule 20 CSR 2030-11.035.

**RECORD KEEPING** is the responsibility of the licensee. Adequate records must be maintained for a minimum of four years for auditing purposes. Examples of records required include, but are not limited to, attendance verification records in the form of completion certificates, signed attendance receipts, a copy of a listing of all attendees signed by a person in responsible charge of the activity or other documentation verifying attendance and CEU credits earned. If audited, submission of specific information on each activity is required. Simply stating "attending education activities at ABC Company" is not acceptable.

**SEMESTER HOUR CREDIT FOR COLLEGE COURSES** – To qualify for this credit, a course must meet regularly and participants tested with a passing grade required. The course must deal with landscape architectural subjects or business practice. One semester hour is converted to 15 CEUs.

**INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES** – Active participation and successful completion of short courses or seminars dealing with landscape architectural subjects sponsored by colleges or universities; technical presentations on subjects which are held in conjunction with conventions or at seminars related to materials use and function; short courses or seminars relating to business practice or new technology and offered by colleges, universities, professional organizations or system suppliers; or, professional service to the public that draws upon the licensee's professional expertise on boards or commissions, building code advisory boards, urban renewal boards or code study committees are allowed one CEU credit for each contact hour.

**TEACHING CREDITS** - Three (3) units is allowed for preparing for each class hour spent teaching landscape architectural courses or seminars. Credit is allowed for the first occurrence of teaching a course or seminar per two (2) year renewal period. College or university faculty may not claim credit for teaching regular curriculum courses.

**PUBLISHED PAPERS, ARTICLES OR BOOKS** – Credit may be claimed for contact hours spent in landscape architectural research which is published or formally presented to the profession or public. Credit cannot be claimed until that article or paper is actually published.

**ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SOCIETIES** includes all technical and professional societies, but does not include civic or trade organizations. CEUs are awarded only for those portions of the meeting that meet the requirements of Board Rule 20 CSR 2030-11.035. Licensees serving as an officer or member of committee in a technical society or organization shall earn a maximum of one (1) CEU annually. CEU credit is not earned until the end of each year of service is completed.

**DETERMINATION OF QUALIFYING ACTIVITIES** must be made by the licensee. The Board does not pre-approve courses or activities and can only distribute information on what is and is not acceptable. With the broad range of opportunities to earn CEUs, it is up

to the licensee to determine whether the activity qualifies under this Board's requirements. For example, programs presented on topics that are not relevant to your profession should not be claimed for CEU credit. Please note that the LA CES (Landscape Architecture Continuing Education System) is a program sponsored by key landscape architecture organizations to establish, maintain, and enforce standards for evaluating professional development and continuing education programs for landscape architects. Currently there are 146 approved providers and more than 650 active courses available. Twenty nine of the 38 jurisdictions that have mandatory CE requirements accept LA CES courses for meeting these requirements; Missouri is one of those 29 jurisdictions. In addition, CLARB offers a free CE tracking service to Council Record holders who are licensed. Information about successfully completed LA CES courses is transferred from LA CES to CLARB so that if a licensure board requests proof of CE compliance, these licensees can generate a CE transcript via the CLARB website. For more information please visit the LA CES website at <http://laces.asla.org/>. The Board has final approval of CEU credit.

**AUDITS** will be randomly conducted each two-year renewal period to ensure compliance with the Board's requirements. If selected for audit, you will be contacted to provide necessary documentation. Your records must be maintained for a period of four (4) years and copies must be furnished, upon request, to the Board for audit verification purposes. If in its review, the Board finds that a CEU claimed is not acceptable, the Board shall inform the licensee of the criteria that has not been adhered to and he/she will have three months from the license renewal date in which to substantiate the original claim or to earn other credits to meet the minimum requirements.

**EXEMPTIONS** are provided for licensees who have been licensed for less than twelve (12) months; licensees serving honorably on full-time active duty in the armed forces of the United States; and, for those licensees who attest in the required renewal that for not less than twenty-one (21) months of the preceding two (2) year period of licensure, the professional landscape architect is a government employee working as a professional landscape architect and assigned to duty outside the United States. If you are exempt, you must complete the renewal form, submit the renewal fee, and send supporting documentation for the exemption.

**RENEWAL PERIOD** – Renewals are biennial. All professional landscape architects originally licensed in an even year will be required to renew their license by December 31<sup>st</sup> of every even year. All professional landscape architects originally licensed in an odd year will be required to renew their license by December 31<sup>st</sup> of every odd year. In order to renew the license, the professional landscape architect must have obtained 24 CEUs within the two years immediately preceding the renewal date. In order for a renewal to be processed, the licensee must either certify that he or she has completed the required CEUs or elect to place their license in an INACTIVE status. Failure to do either will result in the automatic expiration of the license.

**INACTIVE STATUS** – Please note that at the time of renewal, you will have the option of placing your license in an inactive status. If you elect to go inactive, you cannot practice but you can retain the title of professional landscape architect. You do not have to show

completion of any CEUs but you must submit the renewal fee and your renewal form prior to the deadline.

**INITIAL REGISTRATION** – A professional landscape architect who holds licensure in Missouri for less than twelve (12) months from the date of his/her initial licensure, shall not be required to report CEU hours at the first license renewal.

**EXPIRATION** - Failure to renew shall automatically cause the license to expire and be void. The holder of the expired license or certificate shall have no rights or privileges under such license, but may within the discretion of the Board, be relicensed under the licensee's original license number providing the individual pays the required fee and satisfies the Board of their proficiency.

**TYPICAL QUALIFYING ACTIVITIES:**

- Completing or attending courses, seminars, instruction, in-house programs or training which relates to the licensee's professional practice.
- Attending technical or professional society meetings when a topic related to the licensee's professional practice is presented as a principal part of the program.
- Class preparation for teaching landscape architectural courses or seminars for the first occurrence of teaching a course or seminar per two (2) year renewal period.
- Computer software instructional courses which relate to the licensee's technical profession.
- Management or ethical courses which relate to the landscape architectural profession.
- Correspondence courses on topics related to licensee's professional practice where lessons are prepared, returned for correction and/or grading and testing at the end of the course is required.
- Educational tours of landscape architecturally significant buildings where the tour is sponsored by a college, university or professional organization.
- Professional service to the public that draws upon the licensee's professional expertise on boards or commissions, such as: serving on planning commissions, building code advisory boards, urban renewal boards or code study committees.
- Time spent actively participating in a technical profession society or organization as an officer or member of a committee-----maximum of one (1) CEU per annum.
- Self-study courses sponsored by the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards, MALA, ASLA or similar organizations.
- LA CES (Landscape Architecture Continuing Education System) courses. For listing, please visit the following website: <http://laces.asla.org/>

**TYPICAL NON-QUALIFYING ACTIVITIES:**

- Regular employment
- Real Estate licensing courses
- Personal, estate or financial planning
- Non-technical computer software courses

- Personal self improvement
- Service club meetings or activities
- Equipment demonstrations or trade show displays
- Topics not relevant to licensee's profession
- Enrollment without attendance at courses, seminars, etc.
- Repetitive attendance or teaching of the same course within the same renewal period
- Attending committee meetings or general business meetings of any organization
- Conversational language courses for personal use
- Tours of buildings, structures, schools, museums and such unless there is a clear objective to maintain and strengthen competency in technical field