

FAQ'S - CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Why did the BAO increase the hours from four to six hours? Six hours seems too much.

Professional development is important as it ensures that knowledge and skills stay relevant and current and fosters consumer confidence in the sector. This is even more vital today as licensees continue as “licensed” if they renew their license and meet the CE requirements, regardless of the activity or employer. The BAO looked at the CE requirements of jurisdictions across Canada and the US and saw that Ontario’s bereavement sector was at the low end of CE hours. Many if not most jurisdictions require 12 to 24 hours of CE for their funeral licensees within a two-year period.

Other professions require substantially more hours:

Career	Continuing Education Hours Required Annually
Life Insurance Brokers	15
Chartered Professional Accountants	40
Real Estate Agents	12
Paralegals	12
Dental Hygienists / Naturopaths	23

2. What if the continuing education course I take is longer than the required # of hours?

Feel free to complete more than the required # of continuing education hours – you are only required to report 6 hours to the BAO (when you renew your license).

3. Can I complete 6 hours of continuing education content from category A?

Yes. As an option you MAY complete up to 2 hours of self-care education (category B) but this is not mandatory. If you wish, you can complete all 6 hours of continuing education on topics relating to technical/professional skills (category A).

4. Why does CE have to be delivered by the associations or colleges to qualify for credit?

The BAO has never been in the business of delivering education and believes that the associations are best positioned to determine the CE needs of their members. In addition, the quality of content must be assured. OFSA and OACFP share a dedication to professional development and education for their respective members, many of whom are subject matter experts. The colleges obviously have expertise in education delivery.

5. What is the BEC?

The Bereavement Education Committee (BEC) is a joint committee of OFSA and OACFP that, in consultation with Humber College and College Boreal, meets to receive applications from third-party education providers, and approve their content for the purposes of meeting the CE requirements set by the BAO.

6.Does this mean the registrar no longer approves courses?

The registrar maintains statutory authority under the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act 2002 over all education requirements; but in relation to professional development, the registrar has delegated the approval of courses to the BEC.

7.Do I report my con ed attendance to the BEC?

You will report your professional development hours when you are renewing your personal licence through the licensee portal in November/December. You must maintain proof of attendance.

8.What if I don't want to belong to OFSA or OACFP? How can I get my CE credits?

Membership is not required to access courses from the associations. That said, licensees may find excellent value in becoming a member to take advantage of discounts and other services.

9.I took courses provided by FSAC. Will they count for CE?

Only if the courses received prior approval from the BEC.

10.What if I attend the NFDA conference in the US, will it be eligible for credit?

Conferences that were eligible in the past do not automatically qualify as eligible for CE unless approved by the BEC.

11.Will there be any courses that are free and don't require payment?

Maintaining one's status as a licensed professional requires an ongoing investment of time and money. There is a cost to delivering webinars and such, and the associations and colleges can charge a fee to offset these costs. Occasionally, as in the past, free CE opportunities may be available from time to time.

12.I'm a provider and my course was approved by the BAO last year. Do I still have to go through the BEC approval process?

Yes.

13.How can I get a course/ training approved?

Contact the BEC at: apply@bereavementeducation.org

14.I have attended training from the associations or colleges before and I don't think the content had value. I believe there are more educational opportunities out there that aren't offered by the associations/colleges.

If you believe that there are subjects that should be offered that currently are not, you may suggest these opportunities to the BEC for consideration or advise the provider to contact the BEC. Contact the BEC: apply@bereavementeducation.org