

VIRGINIA APELSCIDLA BOARD ANNOUNCEMENT

http://www.dpor.virginia.gov/dporweb/LA_licensure_2.pdf

Important Changes to Virginia's Landscape Architect Regulatory Program

Licensure to replace certification; continuing education requirements apply.

The 2009 General Assembly amended the regulatory program for landscape architects administered by the Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, Certified Interior Designers and Landscape Architects (APELSCIDLA Board). Any person who holds a valid landscape architect certification, and is a Virginia-certified landscape architect in good standing on June 30, 2010, shall be licensed to practice landscape architecture as of July 1, 2010.

Additionally, beginning with July 31, 2010, license expirations, landscape architects must attest to meeting the Board's continuing education requirement. For example, any licensed landscape architect with an expiration of July 31, 2010, must attest to 16 hours of continuing education obtained from August 1, 2008 – July 31, 2010. Refer to 18VAC10-20-683 (see below) for continuing education requirements.

Additional information regarding the regulations is available on the Board's website at www.dpor.virginia.gov. Past and pending regulatory action is also available on the Town Hall website at www.townhall.virginia.gov.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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http://www.dpor.virginia.gov/dporweb/ape_main.cfm

Code of Virginia Continuing Education Statute

Following is the Code of Virginia section that pertains to the continuing education required for architects, professional engineers, land surveyors, and as of July 1, 2010, landscape architects. The Code section is provided for information purposes only. Please go to <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+54.1-404.2> for the complete Code section.

§ 54.1-404.2. Continuing education.

A. The Board shall promulgate regulations governing continuing education requirements for architects, professional engineers, land surveyors, and landscape architects licensed by the Board. Such regulations shall require the completion of the equivalent of 16 hours per biennium of Board-approved continuing education activities as a prerequisite to the renewal or reinstatement of a license issued to an architect, professional engineer, land surveyor, or landscape architect. The Board shall establish criteria for

continuing education activities including, but not limited to (i) content and subject matter; (ii) curriculum; (iii) standards and procedures for the approval of activities, courses, sponsors, and instructors; (iv) methods of instruction for continuing education courses; and (v) the computation of course credit.

B. The Board may grant exemptions or waive or reduce the number of continuing education hours required in cases of certified illness or undue hardship.

Virginia Administrative Code APELSCIDLA Board Regulations Regarding Continuing Education

Following is an excerpt of the latest APELSCIDLA Board Regulations that pertains to the continuing education required for architects, professional engineers, land surveyors, and landscape architects as of March 31, 2010. The Regulations section is provided for information purposes only. Please go to http://www.dpor.virginia.gov/dporweb/ape_reg.pdf for the complete text of the Regulations.

18VAC10-20-683. Continuing education requirements for renewal or reinstatement.

- A. Individuals whose licenses expire or who apply to reinstate after March 31, 2010, shall be required to comply with the continuing education provisions of this chapter.
- B. Individuals are required to complete at least 16 continuing education credit hours of approved continuing education activities for any license renewal or reinstatement.
- C. Continuing education activities shall be deemed to be approved provided the following criteria are met:
 - 1. Content and subject matter. Continuing education activities must be related to practice of the profession of the license being renewed, have a clear purpose and objective that will maintain, improve, or expand the skills and knowledge relevant to the licensee's area of practice as defined in Chapter 4 (§ 54.1-400 et seq.) of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia. The required continuing education credit hours may be in areas related to business practices, including project management, risk management, and ethics, which have demonstrated relevance to the licensee's area of practice as defined in Chapter 4 of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia.
 - 2. Curriculum. The curriculum of the continuing education activity must be consistent with the purpose and objective of the continuing education activity.
 - 3. Sponsors and instructors. Sponsors of continuing education activities must have sufficient resources to provide the continuing education activity and documentation of completion of the continuing education activity to those individuals who successfully complete the continuing education activity. Course instructors must be competent in the subject being taught, either by education or experience.
 - 4. Methods of instruction for continuing education courses. The method of instruction must be consistent with the purpose and objective of the continuing education activity.
 - 5. Computation of credit.
 - a. Fifty contact minutes shall equal one continuing education credit hour. For a continuing education course or activity in which individual segments are less than 50 minutes, the sum of the segments shall be totaled for computation of continuing education credit hours for that continuing education course or activity.

- b. The sponsor of the continuing education activity must have predetermined the number of continuing education credit hours that an activity shall take to complete. A licensee cannot claim credit for more than the predetermined number of continuing education credit hours if the licensee took more than the predetermined number of hours to complete the continuing education activity.
 - c. One semester credit hour of approved college credit shall equal 15 continuing education credit hours and one quarter credit hour of approved college credit shall equal 10 continuing education credit hours.
 - d. For self-directed continuing education activity, there must be an assessment by the sponsor at the conclusion of the activity to verify that the individual has achieved the purpose and objective of the continuing education activity; credit will not be awarded if the individual has not successfully achieved the purpose and objective of the continuing education activity based upon the results of the assessment.
 - e. A licensee may be granted credit for the initial development or substantial updating of a continuing education activity or his initial teaching of a course that otherwise meets the requirements of this chapter at twice the amount of credit that students of the course or activity would receive. Additional credit for subsequent offerings of the course or activity with the same content will not be permitted.
 - f. A licensee will not receive credit for completing the same continuing education activity with the same content more than once during the license period immediately prior to the expiration date of the license for renewal or during the two years immediately prior to the date of receipt of a complete reinstatement application.
- D.
- 1. Only continuing education activities completed during the license period immediately prior to the expiration date of the license shall be acceptable in order to renew the license. Continuing education activities utilized to satisfy the continuing education requirements to renew a license shall be valid only for that renewal and shall not be accepted for any subsequent renewal cycles or reinstatement of that license.
 - 2. Individuals shall maintain records of completion of continuing education activities that comply with the requirements of this chapter for three years from the date of expiration of the license for which the continuing education activities are being used to renew the license. Individuals shall provide such records to the board or its duly authorized agents upon request.
- E. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection D of this section, continuing education activities completed during a licensing renewal cycle to satisfy the continuing education requirements of the preceding licensing renewal cycle shall be valid only for that preceding license renewal cycle and shall not be accepted for any subsequent renewal cycles or reinstatement.
- F.
- 1. Each individual license holder applying for reinstatement shall provide, as part of his reinstatement application, evidence of compliance with the continuing education requirements of this chapter. The completion date of continuing education activities submitted in support of a reinstatement application shall not be more than two years old as of the date a complete reinstatement application is received by the board.
 - 2. Continuing education activities utilized to satisfy the continuing education requirements in order to reinstate a license shall be valid only for that reinstatement and shall not be accepted for any subsequent renewal cycles or reinstatement.
- G. Periodically, the board may conduct a random audit of its licensees who have applied for renewal to determine compliance. Licensees who are selected for audit shall provide all

documentation of all continuing education activities utilized to renew their license within 21 calendar days of receiving notification of audit.

Continuing Education Opportunities

The following information is excerpted from the ASLA website.

<http://www.asla.org/ContinuingEducation.aspx>

M - Free or discounted for Members

\$ - Available to Non-Members for a fee

Landscape Architecture Continuing Education System (LA CES)

A collaboration of the American Society of Landscape Architects, Canadian Society of Landscape Architects, Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture, Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards, Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board, and the Landscape Architecture Foundation.

The Landscape Architecture Continuing Education System (LA CES) will establish, maintain, and enforce standards for evaluating professional development and continuing education programs for landscape architects. Continuing education has never been more important for professionals. It's needed to stay up to date in the profession, develop new areas of expertise, and is mandated for maintaining licensure in many jurisdictions. LA CES will guide professionals in identifying courses that are appropriate for landscape architects and offered by legitimate organizations that have controls and processes in place to monitor quality and track attendance.

The mission of LA CES is to assure landscape architects and licensing boards that courses provided by LA CES approved providers are of sufficient quality. Approved providers will register courses with LA CES that meet LA CES requirements. Registered courses will cover a broad range of subject matter and providers will be required to identify those courses that meet the LA CES standard of health, safety, and welfare (HSW).

Visit LA CES to find professional development opportunities searchable by topic, date and location.

Landscape Architecture Technical Information Series (LATIS), M, \$

ASLA.org offers ASLA members an opportunity to earn professional development hours through the [Landscape Architecture Technical Information Series \(LATIS\)](#).

This series of online publications can be viewed by ASLA members at no charge. Non-members can purchase access through the ASLA store. To obtain professional development hours, landscape architects must complete and pass the exam, which is part of each LATIS publication. There is a processing fee for the exam.

Chapter Resources

ASLA Chapters provide professional development opportunities. Check out [ASLA opportunities](#), and chapter websites, to see what may be of interest to you.

ASLA is also a sponsor of conferences and educational programs offered by other organizations that include professional development opportunities. Often, these organizations provide registration discounts to ASLA members.

Virginia Chapter ASLA Continuing Education Initiative

The VAASLA is in the process of securing Landscape Architecture Continuing Education System (LA CES) Approved Provider status. This will ensure that VAASLA continuing education opportunities as part of annual meetings and conferences, seminars, and other educational programs will support Landscape Architects in their efforts to secure the 16 hours of continuing education required for the two-year renewal process. The VAASLA will provide information in the future regarding the chapter's continuing education opportunities.

Other Sources of Continuing Education

There are many other sources of continuing education including but not limited to:

- Professional Societies (American Institute of Architects, Virginia Society American Institute of Architects, Virginia Society of Professional Engineers, etc.)
- Continuing Education programs at colleges and Universities
- Conferences and Seminars
- ASLA Chapters in other states

For more information on Licensure and Regulation, Legislation in Virginia, and Continuing Education Requirements contact:

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VAASLA Legislative Committee APELSCIDLA Board Liaison

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Chair, VAASLA Legislative Committee (former Licensure Committee)