



Continuing Mediator Education FAQs for Mediators

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The Dispute Resolution Commission (Commission) adopted a mandatory continuing mediator education (CME) policy in February, 2016 which requires certified, active mediators to complete two hours of approved CME on an annual basis. These FAQs may help answer questions that mediators have about the policy and its implementation. [Click here for more CME information. \(click here\).](#)

Q. What is the Commission’s policy with regard to Continuing Mediator Education (CME)?

All active MSC and FFS certified mediators must complete two hours of eligible CME prior to certification renewal every fiscal year.

Q. Is the completion of CME mandatory?

Yes. It is mandatory for all active MSC and FFS certified mediators. The Commission encourages inactive mediators to engage in CME activities, but it is not required at this time. There is no CME requirement for mediators certified in the district criminal court mediation program or the Clerk Mediation Program.

Q. What content is eligible for CME credit?

Content must be related to G.S. §7A-38.1, G.S. §7A-38.4A, Rules of the NC Supreme Court for the DRC, and for the MSC and FFS Programs, Rules of the NC Industrial Commission, Standards of Professional Conduct for Mediators, grievance and disciplinary procedures of the DRC, advisory opinions adopted to date by the DRC, and/or case law updates involving mediation.

Q. Where can I find the text of the DRC Continuing Mediator Education Policy?

[Click here for the text of the Policy.](#)

Q. Are there other resources related to the DRC CME Policy available to mediators?

Yes. [Click here for “DRC Procedures Implementing DRC CME Policy.”](#)

Q. How can I find out about available CME opportunities?

Go to the Commission’s website at www.ncdrc.org, click on “CME Information” on the left-hand menu, and then on the next screen, CME Opportunities, or [click here](#). Mediators can also seek information from sponsors of programs, such as the NCBA, local bar associations, and the like, about programs that have been approved for CME.

Q. Will the Commission contact me when programs have been approved for CME credit?

The Commission will make every effort to notify its certified mediators of approved CME programs. The Commission will send emails regarding all programs approved for CME credit, include announcements in its newsletter, The Intermediary, and post them on its website.

Q. When does the policy go into effect?

Beginning with the renewal period for fiscal year 2017-2018 (July 1, 2017, to September 30, 2017), a mediator must have completed 2.0 hours of approved CME between October 1, 2015, and September 30, 2017, in order to be able to renew his/her certification. In subsequent fiscal years, a mediator must complete 2.0 hours of approved CME between July 1 of the fiscal year prior to the current year of renewal and September 30 of the year for which you are renewing your certification, or 15 months.

Q. Do I have to self-report the CME hours that I have completed?

Generally, no. Sponsors of approved CME programs are required to report attendance to the DRC. However, you may choose to email the Commission a copy of your certificate(s) of completion. When there are online programs approved for CME that do not generate a certificate of completion at the end, the Commission will ask you to email verification of completion of an online program.

Q. What happens if I haven't completed 2.0 hours of approved CME when it is time to renew my certification? Is there a grace period?

You will not be able to access the portal to your renewal application until you have completed 2.0 hours of approved CME which has been verified by the program sponsor. Renewal must occur between July 1 and September 30 of the year for which you are renewing your certification. For FY 2017-28 ONLY, the renewal period is extended through October 30, 2017, although applications submitted after September 30, 2017, will be assessed a \$30 late fee.

Q. Will there be CME programs available during the renewal period if I haven't taken 2.0 hours of approved CME before July 1?

Yes. The Commission anticipates and will make its best efforts to ensure that there are sufficient opportunities to obtain CME credit during the renewal period, July 1 – September 30 of any given year. However, the Commission cannot guarantee the availability of approved programs, and therefore recommends that mediators complete their CME requirement prior to the beginning of the renewal period.

Q. I'm dually certified. How much approved CME must I complete?

Dually certified mediators are required to complete only 2.0 hours of approved CME each fiscal year. There is no additional requirement for mediators holding dual certifications.

Q. I was certified during the current fiscal year. Will I need to complete 2.0 hours of approved CME prior to renewal for the next fiscal year?

No. Completion of approved CME is not required for certification renewal in the first year after initial certification.

Q. Do I have to take a 2.0 hour course?

No. A mediator can take two 1.0 hour courses. However, partial-hour credit will not be credited. If a program is less than one hour, it will not be approved. If a program's duration is between 1.0 and 2.0 hours, CME credit will be rounded down to 1.0 hour.

Q. Do I have to take live programs?

No. Live programs, video replays, webinars, and on demand/online programs, if approved, will qualify.

Q. Can I receive CME credit if I am a presenter at an approved CME program?

Yes. A presenter can receive an hour of CME credit for each hour s/he presents at an approved CME program.

Q. Will programs approved for CME credit also be approved for CLE credit by the NC State Bar?

In general, yes. An application for CME credit will not be approved unless the State Bar has approved the program for CLE credit. However, some on demand programs which are replays of live programs which were approved and then taped by NCAOC most likely will not be separately approved for CLE credit. Attorneys should check with the State Bar about the possibility of self-reporting attendance at such programs. The Commission may disseminate information about programs conditionally approved for CME credit with the caveat that State Bar approval for CLE credit is pending.

Q. Will the Commission assess a fee per hour of CME taken?

No. There are no fees assessed by the Commission for approved CME hours completed. The only fee is the registration fee, if any, assessed by the sponsor of the program.

Q. Can I carry-over extra CME hours to another year?

No. There is no carry-over from year to year. However, after renewal for a given fiscal year, you may take additional CME prior to the expiration of the renewal period and receive credit.

Q. Why aren't topics such as mediation theory and techniques eligible for CME credit?

Because of a rise in ethical complaints against mediators the Commission intentionally approved a narrow policy that would focus on program enabling legislation, program rules, and matters of ethics.

Q. Will the Commission continue to post additional educational resources and programs related to mediation even though they are not eligible for CME credit?

Yes. Two hours is a minimum requirement for mandatory CME. The Commission encourages mediators to attend additional seminars and workshops, to continue reading resources on mediation, to allow observers, and to engage in other educational activities related to mediation whether or not said activity is approved for CME credit.

Q. If I take a program on mediation out-of-state can it be eligible for CME credit?

It is unlikely that an out-of-state program would be able to meet the narrow criteria of the content that would be approved for credit under the DRC CME Policy.

Q. If I have additional questions, who do I contact?

You can email the Commission at DRCMediators@nccourts.org or call the office at 919-890-1415.