



Board of Behavioral Sciences



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Gavin Newsom, Governor  
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Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency  
Department of Consumer Affairs

## **New Requirement for Existing Licensees and Applicants for Licensure: Suicide Risk Assessment and Intervention**

Last year, the Legislature passed AB 1436 (Chapter 527, Statutes of 2018). Under this new law, effective January 1, 2021, the Board will begin requiring both applicants for licensure and licensees to have completed a minimum of six hours of coursework or applied experience under supervision in suicide risk assessment and intervention. There are three ways to meet this requirement:

1. The coursework may have been obtained as part of the graduate degree program that qualified you for licensure. (To use this option, you will need to obtain a written certification from the registrar or training director of your school or school program stating that the coursework was a required part of the curriculum for your graduation, or that you had completed the coursework)
2. The requirement was met as part of your applied experience. (To use this option, the experience must have been obtained through your practicum or supervised experience required for licensure, formal doctoral placement, or other qualifying supervised experience. You will need to obtain a written certification from the director of training for your program, or from your primary supervisor that supervised the experience. The certification must state that the required training was included in the applied experience)
3. The requirement can be met by taking a continuing education course from a provider that is acceptable to the Board. You will need to obtain a certification of completion from the course provider. Information about acceptable continuing education providers can be found at the Board's website using the following link:

[https://bbs.ca.gov/licensees/cont\\_ed.html](https://bbs.ca.gov/licensees/cont_ed.html)

### **Is there an Age Limit on the Coursework/Experience?**

No. As long as you can obtain the appropriate proof, as described above, there is no age limit.

### **How Often Must I take this Coursework?**

This is a one-time requirement.

### **What do I Need to do if I am a Board Licensee?**

If you are already a Board licensee, you should either gather required documentation that you previously had six hours of this coursework or experience, or you should take a continuing education course to meet the requirement. At the time of your first renewal that takes place on

or after January 1, 2021, you will be required to sign under penalty of perjury as part of your license renewal that you meet the requirement.

You will not be required to actually submit the certification paperwork to the Board at the time of your renewal, but you will be required to submit it if the Board audits you. Therefore, we strongly encourage you to gather the documentation now, and save it in a safe place, so that you have it easily accessible when needed.

If you choose to meet the requirement by taking a continuing education course, you can also count the course toward the required 36 hours of continuing education needed to renew your license. The course will count toward the 36-hour requirement in the renewal cycle during which the course was actually taken. (For example, let's say you decide to take the 6-hour course early, before your license expiration on July 31, 2020. The 6-hour course applies toward the 36-hour requirement for your 2020 renewal. For your 2022 renewal, you would certify you met the suicide risk assessment coursework, but the course would not count toward your 36-hour continuing education requirement in your 2022 renewal period)

#### **What if my Board License is not Active?**

You will be required to meet the requirement in order to reactivate or reinstate your license to active status on or after January 1, 2021.

#### **What do I Need to do if I am an Associate or if I Plan on Applying for Licensure Soon?**

Associates and other future applicants for licensure should know that if they apply for licensure on or after January 1, 2021, they will need to submit the certification documents showing that they meet the requirement, using one of the three methods specified above, before a license will be issued. Having a plan to obtain the required documentation ahead of time will help avoid delays.

If you apply for licensure anytime before January 1, 2021, you will be able to obtain a license without meeting this requirement. However, you will be required to certify compliance at your first license renewal.