

AGD:FACTSHEET

Compiled for you by the Academy of General Dentistry



CONTINUING EDUCATION

What is continuing education?

Continuing education (CE) or continuing dental education (CDE) consists of classes, courses, and organized learning education programs. Dentists take these courses after they graduate from dental school so they can stay up-to-date in their field and learn about the latest techniques and procedures. CE can include for-credit programs of study or non-credit programs. Taking extra courses helps to enhance a dentist's professional goals.

Who is required to take CE?

Doctors, dentists, and psychologists are among the many professionals required to take predetermined amounts of CE to maintain licensure and certification if they would like to continue to work within a given region or a particular state.

Where is CE offered?

Colleges and universities will offer a variety of CE courses usually through night or weekend classes on campus. Professional organizations and associations also offer CE opportunities for their members through approved courses at functions, such as annual meetings. They also will organize travel opportunities for distance learning. More CE courses are being offered in new modalities, such as online courses and courses offered via Podcasts. A Podcast is a Web feed of audio or video files that are placed on the Internet for anyone to download or subscribe to. These online courses can be completed on the dentist's own time, which is useful, since many dentists taking CE are working professionals with busy schedules.

How is CE beneficial?

State regulations require dentists to take a certain amount of CE to ensure they are aware of new developments, techniques, and treatments in their fields. These requirements allow only the best professionals—including doctors or dentists—to maintain their practice. Dentists also take CE to learn and extend new service offerings to their patients, such as laser dentistry, cosmetic procedures, or sleep dentistry. Many dentists exceed the number of state-required CE hours.

What are the Academy of General Dentistry's (AGD) CE requirements and programs?

- AGD members never stop learning; the AGD requires its members to participate in 75 hours of CE every three years.
- Surveys show that members of the AGD complete more than 40 hours of CE on average each year.
- Only the AGD's members can earn the prestigious Fellowship and Mastership awards. These designations are awarded for completion of the most rigorous continuing dental education programs. Fellowship in the AGD (FAGD) honors members who have earned more than 500 FAGD-approved CE credits and have successfully completed the FAGD exam. After receiving their Fellowship, AGD members must complete a challenging course of hands-on study in 16 dental disciplines, totaling 600 hours of CE, to earn their Mastership (MAGD).
- By choosing an AGD dentist, you can trust that he or she is current in general dentistry and will provide your entire family with quality treatment.

Do you have questions about dental health?

At the AGD's Web site, you can search more than 300 oral health topics, post a dental question, sign up for e-newsletters, find an AGD dentist, and more.

Visit us at www.agd.org.

