

***What is in the Practice Act and cannot be changed without the introduction of a bill to in the state legislature:***

- LMBT License must be renewed every 2 years.
- 24 hours of study, as approved by the board, are required each renewal.

***What is in the Rules and Guidelines:***

Licenses expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the pertinent 2-year period. The renewal is due between August 1<sup>st</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup> of the renewal year (Guidelines) or a late fee (\$75) is incurred and a letter of reprimand is issued to the LMBT. Within the 2 years following the expiration date, the license may be reinstated by completing all CE requirements for both 2-year periods, and submitting all required forms and fees to the Board. Licenses expired in excess of 24 months are not renewable. Persons whose licenses have been expired for more than 24 months must apply for a new license. If the therapist was grandfathered in to licensing, this may present significant problems to the former licensee re meeting current Board standards for granting a license.

Acceptable content for CE is defined in the Rules; how the CE shall be documented is defined in the Guidelines (i.e. certificate of completion or transcript). CE must be completed within the 27 month period preceding November 1 of the year the licensee's renewal is due (Guidelines). This results in a 3 month overlap (August, September, October) in which CEs could be earned and applied to both the licensee's current renewal and the licensee's next renewal.

What is CE? "Learning experiences that enhance and expand the skills, knowledge, and attitudes of massage and bodywork therapists that enable them to render competent professional service to clients, the profession and the public."

To be approved, CE courses must be offered by 1) an approved CE provider as designated by the NCBTMB or 2) the NCCAOM or 3) a post-secondary institution of higher learning (anatomy, physiology, pathology or business management only.)

The content of the 24 hours of documented CE must be configured as follows:

1. Only 12 hours of the 24 hours can be distance learning.

*Summary of LMBT Continuing Education requirements as defined by law in NC  
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2. Three hours of the 24 hours must be Ethics (Professional ethics. --A system of conduct guided by principles which are intended to ensure the safe and effective practice of massage and bodywork therapy. Acceptable subject matter for required professional ethics courses may include: compliance with Practice Act and Rules of the Board, management of the client/therapist relationship, boundary functions, professional communication skills, conflict resolution, cultural diversity issues, and standards of practice.)
3. No more than 3 hours of the 24 hours submitted can be in business management. (Business management. --Courses that enable the licensee to learn and apply business skills to create a successful professional practice.)

Time frames and equivalencies: One "contact hour" of continuing education. --At least 50 minutes of any one clock hour during which the student participates in a learning activity in the physical presence of an instructor, or in a distance learning activity designed by an approved provider. One semester credit hour at a post-secondary institution shall be equivalent to 16 contact hours.

Rules must be changed by the rule-making process as defined on the Board Website, in the Board Rules, and also in Statute 150B-20.