

TITLE 16 OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
CHAPTER 63 SOCIAL WORKERS
PART 12 CONTINUING EDUCATION

16.63.12.1 ISSUING AGENCY: Regulation and Licensing Department, Board of Social Work Examiners
P.O Box 25101, Santa Fe, NM 87504.

[16.63.12.1 NMAC – Rp., 16.63.12.1 NMAC, 10/07/2025]

16.63.12.2 SCOPE: All baccalaureate social workers, masters social workers, clinical social workers, and independent social workers.

[16.63.12.2 NMAC – Rp., 16.63.12.2 NMAC, 10/07/2025]

16.63.12.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: These parts are promulgated pursuant to the Social Work Practice Act, Section 61-31-1-25 NMSA 1978.

[16.63.12.3 NMAC – Rp., 16.63.12.3 NMAC, 10/07/2025]

16.63.12.4 DURATION: Permanent

[16.63.12.4 NMAC – Rp., 16.63.12.4 NMAC 10/07/2025]

16.63.12.5 EFFECTIVE DATE: October 07, 2025, unless a different date is cited at the end of a section.

[16.63.12.5 NMAC – Rp., 16.63.12.5 NMAC, 10/07/2025]

16.63.12.6 OBJECTIVE: To inform licensee of continuing education hours required for license renewal, and the reporting process.

[16.63.12.6 NMAC – Rp., 16.63.12.6 NMAC, 10/07/2025]

16.63.12.7 DEFINITIONS: [RESERVED]

16.63.12.8 CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENT: Continuing of education is required for social workers to be re-licensed at any level. Continuing education is required by the New Mexico board of social work examiners to ensure that social workers in New Mexico are providing the highest quality professional services.

[16.63.12.8 NMAC – Rp., 16.63.12.8 NMAC, 10/07/2025]

16.63.12.9 CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT: 30 hours of continuing education will be required biennially. Six of the 30 hours must be in the subject area of cultural awareness. Three of the 30 hours shall be in the subject area of professional ethics. Proof of participation in or presentation of continuing education activity must be submitted with the license renewal request of the licensee is audited. All continuing education hours must be earned during the current two year renewal period of July 1 thru June 30.

[16.63.12.9 NMAC – Rp., 16.63.12.9 NMAC 10/07/2025]

16.63.12.10 CONTINUING EDUCATION PARTICIPATION/FORMAL SOCIAL WORK

EDUCATION: A three-hour college level course in social work or courses which are designed to enhance the skills relevant to the social worker's professional activity will be accepted as equivalent to 30 hours. The social worker shall submit transcripts directly to the board with renewal.

[16.63.12.10 NMAC – Rp., 16.63.12.10 NMAC, 10/07/2025]

16.63.12.11 CONTINUING EDUCATION AGENTS: The board may identify and authorized any continuing education agents. The agents will report directly to the board concerning continuing education activity.

[16.63.12.11 NMAC – Rp., 16.63.12.11 NMAC, 10/07/2025]

16.63.12.12 CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT CARRYOVER: All continuing education hours must be earned during the current two-year renewal period of July 1 thru June 30; no carryover will be permitted.

[16.63.12.12 NMAC – Rp., 16.63.12.12 NMAC, 10/07/2025]

16.63.12.13 DOCUMENTATION OF PARTICIPATION: The board shall audit a percentage of renewal applications each renewal period to verify the continuing education requirement. The licensee must maintain proof of continuing education courses taken for the past four years.

A. If a notice of audit letter sent to the licensee evidence of proof continuing education hours earned during the renewal period must be submitted to the board as requested and as required in the Social Work Practice Act and by this rule.

B. If the licensee is not audited, all documentation of attendance and agendas must be retained by the licensee for a minimum of four years immediately preceding the current renewal.

C. The board reserves the right to audited a licensee's continuing education records as it deems necessary.

D. The board does not maintain a list of continuing education providers. The licensee must determine where to obtain the required continuing education.

E. Each licensee will maintain documentation of all completed continuing education, including contact information for the provider of each course.

F. If all continuing education requirements are not met by the expiration date of the licensee or granted extension date, the licensee shall be subject to disciplinary action;

(1) renewing licensee will be randomly selected for audit; the board may audit continuing education records at any time before the next schedule license renewal or when deemed appropriate by the board;

(2) the licensee will be notified by email when selected for audit and will be given a deadline to submit the continuing education proof of completion;

(3) Failure to respond to request by the board may be subject to fine and other penalties determined appropriate by the board;

(4) The board may, at its discretion, accept a sworn affidavit of evidence of certificate/license holder compliance with continuing education requirements in support of renewal application in lieu of documented evidence of such.

G. An individual who submits records or a sworn affidavit on their renewal application to demonstrate compliance with continuing education requirements but is found to be non-compliant during a random audit will be subject to fines and other penalties determined appropriate by the board.

[16.63.12.13 NMAC – Rp., 16.63.12.13 NMAC, 10/07/2025]

16.63.12.14 CONTINUING EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL DISCRETION: The social worker may choose up to seven hours per renewal which is self-directed. The social worker may select education programs, reading and audio or video-taped materials which are in the domain of social work. Preparation time, not to exceed the length of the presentation and time accumulated in presenting a social work seminar or workshop is included in this section. Documentation of discretionary continuing education hours will be in accordance with guidelines established by the board of social work examiners. Activities which include personal scope such as sports, hobbies, etc. are not acceptable for credit nor is person therapy. The social worker seeking re-licensure shall report continuing education hours directly to the board upon application for license renewal. Approval of credit under this section is within the board's discretion.

[16.63.12.14 NMAC – Rp., 16.63.12.14 NMAC, 10/07/2025]

16.63.12.15 FAILURE TO MEET CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS: Failure to meet continuing education requirements will cause the board to refuse to renew the social work license in accordance with the Uniform Licensing Act.

[16.63.12.15 NMAC – N, 16.63.12.15 NMAC, 10/07/2025]

HISTORY OF 16.63.12 NMAC:

Pre-NMAC History: The material in this part was derived from that previously filed with the Commission of Public Records-State Records Center and Archives:

Rule 12, Continuing Education, 4/15/91.

Rule 12 Continuing Education, 5/22/92.

History of Repealed Material:

16.63.12 NMAC, Continuing Education, filed 06/22/1992, was repealed and replaced with 16.63.12 NMAC, Continuing Education, effective 10/07/2025.