**Initial Licensure Examination Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a)</td>
<td>The Division shall accept the following examinations for licensure if administered and passed in their entirety (which includes passage of the restorative, periodontal, prosthodontic and endodontic portions of the examination):</td>
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<tr>
<td>1)</td>
<td>NERB Examination, with a passing score established by testing entity;</td>
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<td>2)</td>
<td>CRDTS Examination, with a passing score established by testing entity;</td>
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<tr>
<td>3)</td>
<td>SRTA Examination, with a passing score established by testing entity;</td>
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<tr>
<td>4)</td>
<td>WREB Examination, with a passing score established by testing entity; or</td>
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<td>5)</td>
<td>CITA Examination, with a passing score established by testing agency.</td>
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<tr>
<td>b)</td>
<td>Retake requirements shall be that of the testing entity.</td>
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<tr>
<td>c)</td>
<td>The applicant shall have the examination scores submitted to the Division directly from the reporting entity.</td>
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<tr>
<td>d)</td>
<td>The Division will accept only examinations that have been completed in the 5 years prior to submission of the application, if never licensed in another jurisdiction.</td>
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(Source: Amended at 40 Ill. Reg. 12553, effective September 2, 2016)

**General Licensure Requirements**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>225 Illinois Compiled Statutes 25/9 (from Ch. 111, par. 2309)</td>
<td>Sec. 9. Qualifications of applicants for dental licenses. The Department shall require that each applicant for a license to practice dentistry shall:</td>
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<tr>
<td>(a)</td>
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<td>(b)</td>
<td>Be at least 21 years of age and of good moral character.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(c)</td>
<td>(1) Present satisfactory evidence of completion of dental education by graduation from a dental college or school in the United States or Canada approved by the Department. The Department shall not approve any dental college or school which does not require at least (A) 60 semester hours of collegiate credit or the equivalent in acceptable subjects from a college or university before admission, and (B) completion of at least 4 academic years of instruction or the equivalent in an approved dental college or school that is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association; or</td>
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<tr>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>Present satisfactory evidence of completion of dental education by graduation from a dental college or school outside the United States or Canada and provide satisfactory evidence that the applicant has: (A) completed a minimum of 2 academic years of general dental clinical training and obtained a doctorate of dental surgery (DDS) or doctorate of dental medicine (DMD) at a dental college or school in the United States or Canada approved by the Department; or (B) met the program requirements approved by rule by the Department.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nothing in this Act shall be construed to prevent either the Department or any dental college or school from establishing higher standards than specified in this Act.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(d)</td>
<td>(Blank).</td>
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<tr>
<td>(e)</td>
<td>Present satisfactory evidence that the applicant has passed both parts of the National Board Dental Examination administered by the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations and has successfully completed an examination conducted by one of the following regional testing services: the Central Regional Dental Testing Service, Inc. (CRDTS), the Southern Regional Testing Agency, Inc. (SRTA), the Western Regional Examining Board (WREB), the North East Regional Board (NERB), or the Council of Interstate Testing Agencies (CITA). For purposes of this Section, successful completion shall mean that the applicant has achieved a minimum passing score as determined by the applicable regional testing service. The Secretary may suspend a regional testing service under this subsection (e) if, after proper notice and hearing, it is established that (i) the integrity of the...</td>
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</table>
examination has been breached so as to make future test results unreliable or (ii) the test is fundamentally deficient in testing clinical competency.

In determining professional capacity under this Section, any individual who has not been actively engaged in the practice of dentistry, has not been a dental student, or has not been engaged in a formal program of dental education during the 5 years immediately preceding the filing of an application may be required to complete such additional testing, training, or remedial education as the Board may deem necessary in order to establish the applicant's present capacity to practice dentistry with reasonable judgment, skill, and safety.

(Source: P.A. 99-366, eff. 1-1-16; 100-215, eff. 1-1-18.)

(225 ILCS 25/10) (from Ch. 111, par. 2310)

(Sec. scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2026)

Sec. 10. Examinations for dental licensure. Examination shall be made in writing in all theoretical subjects. Both theoretical and practical examinations shall be of a character to give a fair test of the qualifications of the applicant to practice dentistry. The examination papers and all grading thereon, and the grading of the practical work, shall be deemed public documents, and preserved for a period of not less than 2 years after the Department shall have made and published its decisions thereon. All examinations shall be conducted or authorized under fair and wholly impartial methods.

(Source: P.A. 84-365.) (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2026)

Illinois Administrative Code Title 68 Section 1220.100 Application for Licensure

An applicant for a license to practice dentistry in Illinois shall file an application on forms supplied by the Division that shall include:

a) For graduates from a dental college or school in the United States or Canada, certification of successful completion of 60 semester hours or its equivalent of college pre-dental education, and graduation from a dental program specified in Section 1220.140.

b) For graduates from a dental college or school outside of the United States or Canada:
   1) Certification of graduation from a dental college or school; and
   2) Clinical Training
      A) Certification from an approved dental college or school in the United States or Canada that the applicant has completed a minimum of 2 years of clinical training at the school in which the applicant met the same level of scientific knowledge and clinical competence as all graduates from that school or college. The 2 years of clinical training shall consist of:
         i) 2850 clock hours completed in 2 academic years for full-time applicants; or
         ii) 2850 clock hours completed in 4 years with a minimum of 700 hours per year for part-time applicants; or
      B) In the alternative, certification, from the program director of an accredited advanced dental education program approved by the Division, of completion of no less than 2 academic years may be substituted for the 2 academic years of general dental clinical training.
   c) The required fee set forth in Section 1220.415(a)(1).
   d) Proof of successful completion of the Theoretical examination given by JCNDE. The passing score shall be determined by JCNDE. The National Board Certificate must be mailed to the Division by JCNDE.
   e) Proof of successful completion of an examination set forth in Section 1220.120(a).
   f) Certification, on forms provided by the Division, from the state in which an applicant was originally licensed and is currently licensed, if applicable, stating:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>License by Credential/Endorsement Requirements</th>
<th>225 Illinois Compiled Statutes 25/19 (from Ch. 111, par. 2319)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sec. 19. Licensing applicants from other states.</strong> Any person who has been lawfully licensed to practice dentistry, including the practice of a licensed dental specialty, or dental hygiene in another state or territory which has and maintains a standard for the practice of dentistry, a dental specialty, or dental hygiene at least equal to that now maintained in this State, or if the requirements for licensure in such state or territory in which the applicant was licensed were, at the date of his or her licensure, substantially equivalent to the requirements then in force in this State, and who has been lawfully engaged in the practice of dentistry or dental hygiene for at least 3 of the 5 years immediately preceding the filing of his or her application to practice in this State and who shall deposit with the Department a duly attested certificate from the Board of the state or territory in which he or she is licensed, certifying to the fact of his or her licensing and of his or her being a person of good moral character may, upon payment of the required fee, be granted a license to practice dentistry, a dental specialty, or dental hygiene in this State, as the case may be.</td>
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<td><strong>Sec. 19.1. Temporary authorization of applicants from other jurisdictions.</strong> A person holding an active, unencumbered license in good standing in another jurisdiction who applies for a license pursuant to Section 19 of this Act due to a natural disaster or catastrophic event in another jurisdiction, may be temporarily authorized by the Secretary to practice dentistry or dental hygiene under the supervision of a dentist licensed under this Act, pending the issuance of the license. This temporary authorization shall expire upon issuance of the license or upon notification that the Department has denied licensure.</td>
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1) The time during which the applicant was licensed in that state, including the date of the original issuance of the license; and  
2) Whether the file on the applicant contains any record of disciplinary actions taken or pending.  
(Source: Amended at 38 Ill. Reg. 15907, effective July 25, 2014)

Applicants have 3 years from the date of application to complete the application process. If the process has not been completed in 3 years, the application shall be denied, the fee forfeited and the applicant must reapply and meet the requirements in effect at the time of reapplication.  
(Source: P.A. 97-526, eff. 1-1-12; 97-1013, eff. 8-17-12.)  
(Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2026)

Illinois Administrative Code Title 68 Section 1220.410 Endorsement

a) A person seeking licensure in Illinois as a dentist, a dental specialist or a dental hygienist who is so licensed in another state or territory and has been
lawfully practicing for at least 3 of the last 5 years prior to application in Illinois, may be granted licensure in Illinois upon proof that the requirements for licensure in the other jurisdiction are at least equal to the requirements in Illinois.

b) An applicant for a dental license shall file an application for licensure on forms provided by the Division, that shall include:
   1) Certification of licensure in the original jurisdiction and from any jurisdiction where the applicant has been practicing within the last 5 years, stating:
      A) The time during which the applicant was licensed in that jurisdiction, including the date of the original issuance of the license;
      B) Whether the files of the jurisdiction contain any record of any disciplinary action taken or pending;
   2) The applicant's National Board of Dentistry Examination scores, which must be forwarded to the Division from the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations;
   3) Certification of successful completion of 60 semester hours or its equivalent of college level pre-dental education and graduation from a course of instruction in a dental school that meets the minimum education standards of the Division specified in Section 1220.140;
   4) After May 21, 1993, for dental applicants who graduated from a dental college or school outside of the United States or Canada:
      A) Certification of graduation from a dental college or school;
      B) Certification that the applicant was authorized to practice in the jurisdiction in which the applicant attended dental school; and
      C) Certification from an approved dental college or school in the United States or Canada that the applicant has completed a minimum of 2 years of clinical training at the school in which the applicant met the same level of scientific knowledge and clinical competence as all graduates from that school or college.
      The 2 years of clinical training shall consist of:
      i) 2850 clock hours completed in 2 academic years for full-time applicants; or
      ii) 2850 clock hours completed in 4 years with a minimum of 700 hours per year for part-time applicants;
   5) Verification of employment;
   6) The fee required under Section 1220.415.

c) An applicant for a dental hygienist license shall file an application for licensure on forms provided by the Division, that shall include:
   1) Certification of licensure in the original jurisdiction and from any jurisdiction where the applicant has been practicing within the last 5 years, stating:
      A) The time during which the applicant was licensed in that jurisdiction, including the date of the original issuance of the license;
      B) Whether the files of the jurisdiction contain any record of any disciplinary action taken or pending;
   2) The applicant's National Dental Hygienist Board Examination scores, which must be forwarded to the Division from JCNDE;
   3) Certification of 2 academic years of credit in an approved school of dental hygiene that meets the minimum education standards of the Division specified in Section 1220.250;
   4) Verification of employment;
   5) The fee required under Section 1220.415.

d) Applicants who have not actively practiced in 3 of the last 5 years may be required to complete additional testing, training, or remedial education as the Board may deem necessary in order to establish the applicant's present capacity to practice dentistry.
(Source: Amended at 38 Ill. Reg. 15907, effective July 25, 2014)
### Specialty Practice

**225 Illinois Compiled Statutes 25/11 (from Ch. 111, par. 2311)**

**Sec. 11. Types of dental licenses.** The Department shall have the authority to issue the following types of licenses:

- **(a) General licenses.** The Department shall issue a license authorizing practice as a dentist to any person who qualifies for a license under this Act.

- **(b) Specialty licenses.** The Department shall issue a license authorizing practice as a specialist in any particular branch of dentistry to any dentist who has complied with the requirements established for that particular branch of dentistry at the time of making application. The Department shall establish additional requirements of any dentist who announces or holds himself or herself out to the public as a specialist or as being specially qualified in any particular branch of dentistry. No dentist shall announce or hold himself or herself out to the public as a specialist or as being specially qualified in any particular branch of dentistry unless he or she is licensed to practice in that specialty of dentistry.

The fact that any dentist shall announce by card, letterhead or any other form of communication using terms as “Specialist,” “Practice Limited To” or “Limited to Specialty of” with the name of the branch of dentistry practiced as a specialty, or shall use equivalent words or phrases to announce the same, shall be prima facie evidence that the dentist is holding himself or herself out to the public as a specialist.

(Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2026)

### Continuing Education

**225 Illinois Compiled Statutes 25/16.1 (from Ch. 111, par. 2316.1)**

**Sec. 16.1. Continuing education.** The Department shall promulgate rules of continuing education for persons licensed under this Act. In establishing rules, the Department shall require a minimum of 48 hours of study in approved courses for dentists during each 3-year licensing period and a minimum of 36 hours of study in approved courses for dental hygienists during each 3-year licensing period.

The Department shall approve only courses that are relevant to the treatment and care of patients, including, but not limited to, clinical courses in dentistry and dental hygiene and nonclinical courses such as patient management, legal and ethical responsibilities, and stress management. The Department shall allow up to 4 hours of continuing education credit hours per license renewal period for volunteer hours spent providing clinical services at, or sponsored by, a nonprofit community clinic, local or state health department, or a charity event. Courses shall not be approved in such subjects as estate and financial planning, investments, or personal health. Approved courses may include, but shall not be limited to, courses that are offered or sponsored by approved colleges, universities, and hospitals and by recognized national, State, and local dental and dental hygiene organizations.

No license shall be renewed unless the renewal application is accompanied by an affidavit indicating that the applicant has completed the required minimum number of hours of continuing education in approved courses as required by this Section. The affidavit shall not require a listing of courses. The affidavit shall be a prima facie evidence that the applicant has obtained the minimum number of required continuing education hours in approved courses. The Department shall not be obligated to conduct random audits or otherwise independently verify that an applicant has met the continuing education requirement. The Department, however, may not conduct random audits of more than 10% of the licensed dentists and dental hygienists in any one licensing cycle to verify compliance with continuing education requirements. If the Department, however, receives a complaint that a licensee has not completed the required continuing education or if the Department is investigating another alleged violation of this Act by a licensee, the Department may demand and shall be entitled to receive evidence from any
Illinois Laws & Rules
Updated: 21 August 2019

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Illinois Administrative Code Title 68 Section 1220.170 Renewal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>a)</strong> Beginning with the September 30, 2006 renewal, every dental license issued under the Act shall expire on September 30 every 3 years. The holder of a license may renew the license during the month preceding the expiration date thereof by paying the fee required in Section 21 of the Act and certifying to fulfillment of 48 hours of continuing education pursuant to Section 1220.440.</td>
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<td><strong>b)</strong> A renewal applicant must provide proof of current certification in BLS by an organization that has adopted the American Heart Association's or American Red Cross' guidelines on BLS or a statement provided by the dentist's licensed physician indicating that the applicant is physically disabled and unable to obtain certification;</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>c)</strong> It is the responsibility of each licensee to notify the Division of any change of address. Failure to receive a renewal form from the Division shall not constitute an excuse for failure to pay the renewal fee or to renew one's license.</td>
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<td><strong>d)</strong> Practicing or offering to practice on a license that has expired shall be considered unlicensed activity and shall be grounds for discipline pursuant to Section 23 of the Act.</td>
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(Source: Amended at 38 Ill. Reg. 15907, effective July 25, 2014)

Illinois Administrative Code Title 68 Section 1220.440 Continuing Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>a)</strong> Continuing Education Hours Requirements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1)</strong> Each person who applies for renewal of a license as a dentist shall have completed 48 hours of continuing education (CE) relevant to the practice of dentistry during the prerenewal period.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2)</strong> Each person who applies for renewal of a license as a dental hygienist shall have completed 36 hours of CE relevant to the practice of dental hygiene during the prerenewal period.</td>
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<td><strong>3)</strong> A prerenewal period is the 36 months preceding September 30 of the year of the renewal.</td>
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<td><strong>4)</strong> A renewal applicant is not required to comply with CE requirements for the first renewal following the original issuance of a dental or dental hygienist license.</td>
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<td><strong>5)</strong> Continuing education is not required to renew a dental specialty license. The holder of a dental specialty license is, however, required to complete 48 hours to renew the dental license.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>6)</strong> Dentists or dental hygienist licensed in Illinois but residing in other states shall comply with the CE requirements set forth in this Section.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>7)</strong> Continuing education credit for hours used to satisfy the CE requirements of another state may be applied to fulfillment of the CE requirements of the State of Illinois.</td>
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(Source: P.A. 99-492, eff. 12-31-15.) (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2026)

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<tr>
<th><strong>b)</strong> Approved Continuing Education/Continuing Education Sponsors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1)</strong> All CE courses shall be relevant to the treatment and care of patients and shall be:</td>
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</table>
A) Clinical courses in dentistry and dental hygiene; or
B) Nonclinical subjects that relate to the skills necessary to provide dental or dental hygiene services and are supportive of clinical services (i.e., patient management, legal and ethical responsibilities, stress management). Courses not acceptable for the purpose of this definition include, but are not limited to, estate planning, financial planning, investments and personal health.

2) CE credit may be earned for verifiable attendance at or participation in any courses that meet the requirements of subsection (b)(1) given by one of the following sponsors:
A) American Dental Association and National Dental Association, its constituent and component/branch associations and the American Dental Association Continuing Education Recognition Programs;
B) American Dental Hygienist's Association and National Dental Hygienist's Association, its constituent and component/branch associations;
C) Dental programs approved by the Division as meeting minimum standards for an approved curriculum in dentistry under Section 1220.140 and dental hygiene programs approved under Section 1220.250;
D) Organizations of specialties recognized by the American Dental Association and its constituent and component/branch associations, which are:
   i) Oral and maxillofacial surgery;
   ii) Endodontics;
   iii) Pediatric dentistry;
   iv) Prosthodontics;
   v) Orthodontics;
   vi) Periodontology;
   vii) Oral and maxillofacial radiology;
E) Academy of General Dentistry, its constituent and component/branch associations and approved sponsors;
F) American Dental Society of Anesthesiology and its constituent and component/branch associations;
G) Community colleges with an approved dental hygiene program if offered under the auspices of the dental hygiene program;
H) A college or university accredited by an agency approved by the U.S. Office of Education or a community college approved by the Illinois Community College Board;
I) A hospital that has been accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations;
J) The American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society;
K) A medical school that is accredited by the American Medical Association's Liaison Committee for Medical Education;
L) American Medical Association (AMA), specialty medical associations/organizations, the Accreditation Council on Continuing Medical Education;
M) Federal and State government agencies (i.e., dental division, military dental division, Veterans' Administration, etc.);
N) A sponsor whose course is approved by the National Board for Certification in Dental Laboratory Technology; or
O) A person, firm or association approved by the Division in accordance with subsection (c).

3) CE credit may be earned for completion of an individual study course (correspondence, audio or video course) sponsored by an approved sponsor. The courses shall include a test that the licensee must pass to obtain credit. No more
than 50% of the required CE credit hours during a prerenewal period may be acquired through correspondence courses.

4) CE credit may be earned from teleconferencing courses with a moderator present given by an Illinois approved sponsor.

5) CE credit may be earned from courses leading to an advanced degree or specialty in dental or dental hygiene. The courses shall be allotted CE credit at the rate of 15 CE hours for each semester hour and 10 CE hours for each quarter hour of school credit awarded.

6) CE credit may be earned as an instructor of continuing education courses given by approved sponsors. Credit will be applied for every hour taught and only for the first presentation of the program (i.e., credit shall not be allowed for repetitious presentations). No more than 50% of the required CE credit hours during a prerenewal period may be acquired through teaching continuing education courses.

7) CE credit may be earned for presenting volunteer community oral health education programs. Credit will be applied for each hour of presentation documented by the program director. No more than 2 hours of the required CE credit hours during a prerenewal period may be acquired through presentation of volunteer community oral health education programs.

8) Continuing education hours required by a disciplinary order shall not be used to satisfy the continuing education requirements for license renewal.

9) If a renewal applicant will be earning or has earned CE hours in another jurisdiction, but is not licensed in that jurisdiction and the course is not presented by an Illinois approved sponsor, the applicant shall submit an individual program approval request form, along with a $20 processing fee, to have the program reviewed. The Board shall review and recommend approval or disapproval of the program using the criteria set forth in subsection (b)(1). Applicants may seek individual program approval prior to participation in the course or program. All individual program approval requests shall be submitted prior to the expiration date of the license.

c) Sponsor Application Pursuant to Subsection (b)(2)(O)

1) Entities seeking approval as CE sponsors pursuant to subsection (b)(2)(O) shall file an application, on forms supplied by the Division, along with the fee set forth in Section 1220.415(a)(9). The applicant shall certify on the application the following:

A) That all programs offered by the sponsor for CE credit will comply with the criteria in subsection (b)(1) and all other criteria in this Section;

B) That the sponsor will be responsible for providing a certificate of attendance and will maintain attendance records for at least 5 years. The certificate of attendance shall contain:

i) The name and address of the sponsor;

ii) The name, address and license number of the participant;

iii) A brief statement of the subject matter;

iv) The number of hours attended in each program;

v) An indication of whether the program fulfills CE requirements for dentist, dental hygienist or both;

vi) The date and place of the program; and

vii) The signature of the sponsor;

C) That, upon request by the Division, the sponsor will submit evidence (e.g., certificate of attendance or course materials) as is necessary to establish compliance with this Section. Evidence shall be required when the Division has reason to believe that there is not full compliance with this Part and that the information is necessary to ensure compliance.
2) To maintain approval as a sponsor, each sponsor shall submit to the Division by September 30 of each even-numbered year a renewal application, the fee set forth in Section 1220.415(b)(5) and a list of courses and programs offered within the last 24 months. The list shall include a brief description, location, date and time of each course given.

3) The sponsor shall be responsible for ensuring that any dentist or dental hygienist who will be performing some type of procedure as a part of a continuing education course shall have a current license in Illinois or another jurisdiction.

d) Certification of Compliance with CE Requirements
1) Each renewal applicant shall certify, on the renewal application, to full compliance with the CE requirements set forth in subsection (a).
2) The Division may require additional evidence (e.g., certificate of attendance, transcripts and proof of registration) demonstrating compliance with the CE requirements. It is the responsibility of each renewal applicant to retain or otherwise produce evidence of the compliance. The evidence shall be retained for at least 5 years following the renewal period in which the CE was taken.
3) The Division may conduct random audits to verify compliance with CE requirements.
4) When there is evidence of a lack of compliance with CE requirements, an applicant shall be notified in writing and may request a hearing before the Board. The Division may recommend that steps be taken to begin the formal disciplinary proceedings as required by Section 10-65 of the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act [5 ILCS 100/10-65].

e) Waiver of CE Requirements
1) Any renewal applicant seeking renewal of the license or certificate without having fully complied with these CE requirements shall file with the Division a renewal application, a statement setting forth the facts concerning the noncompliance, a request for waiver of the CE requirements on the basis of the facts and, if desired, a request for an interview before the Board. If the Division finds, from the statement or any other evidence submitted, that good cause has been shown for granting a waiver of the CE requirements, or any part thereof, the Division shall waive enforcement of those requirements for the renewal period for which the applicant has applied.
2) Good cause shall be defined as an inability to devote sufficient hours to fulfilling the CE requirements during the applicable prerenewal period because of:
   A) Full-time service in the armed forces of the United States of America during a substantial part of that period;
   B) A temporary incapacitating illness documented by a licensed physician. A second, consecutive request for a CE waiver pursuant to this subsection (e)(2)(B) shall be prima facie proof that the renewal applicant has a physical or mental illness, including, but not limited to, deterioration through the aging process, or loss of motor skills that results in the dentist's inability to practice dentistry with reasonable judgment, skill or safety, in violation of Section 23(24) of the Act, and shall be grounds for denial of the renewal or other discipline;
   C) Temporary undue hardship (e.g., prolonged hospitalization, being disabled and unable to practice dentistry or dental hygiene on a temporary basis).
3) If an interview is requested at the time the request for waiver is filed with the Division, the renewal applicant shall be given at least 20 days written notice of the date, time and place of the interview by certified mail, return receipt requested.
(Source: Amended at 40 Ill. Reg. 12553, effective September 2, 2016)