

1 **Rule 21 NCAC 66 .0206 is proposed for amendment as follows:**

2
3 **21 NCAC 66 .0206 MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION**

4 Each person holding a veterinary license, limited license, a faculty certificate, or a zoo veterinary certificate (collectively
5 referred to herein as “veterinarian”) or a veterinary technician registration issued by the Board shall comply with the
6 standards in this ~~Rule, Rule, which~~ The standards shall be a condition precedent to the renewal of a license certificate or
7 registration, respectively. ~~Except as otherwise qualified, the criteria with respect to continuing veterinary medical~~
8 ~~education of a person holding a certificate of registration as a veterinary technician shall be the same as that for a licensed~~
9 ~~veterinarian.~~ The standards are as follows:

10 (1) Continuing education credit hours shall relate to veterinary medicine.

11 ~~(1)(2)~~ A ~~Veterinarians~~ veterinarian shall earn 20 continuing education credit hours ~~each calendar.~~ for the
12 calendar year license renewal period.

13 ~~(2)(3)~~ A ~~Veterinary~~ ~~veterinary technicians~~ technician registered with the Board shall earn 12 continuing
14 education credit hours ~~every~~ for the two calendar ~~years.~~ year registration renewal period.

15 ~~(3)(4)~~ A ~~Veterinarians~~ veterinarian or veterinary technician may request and be granted an extension of time,
16 not to exceed six months, to satisfy the continuing education requirement if the veterinarian or
17 veterinary technician provides evidence of ~~an~~ incapacitating illness or ~~evidence of~~ other circumstance
18 which ~~constituted~~ constitutes a severe and verifiable hardship such that to comply with the continuing
19 education requirement ~~would have been~~ is or was impossible or unreasonably burdensome. ~~If the~~
20 incapacitating illness or circumstance is likely to result in loss of life of the veterinarian the Board
21 shall exempt the veterinarian from the unearned portion of the continuing education requirement for
22 that renewal period. ~~If the evidence shows that the incapacitating illness or other circumstance is or~~
23 was so severe that it is or was impractical or impossible, or unreasonably burdensome to comply with
24 the continuing education requirement, the Board shall exempt the veterinarian or veterinary technician
25 from any unearned portion of the continuing education requirement for that renewal period.

26 ~~(4)~~ Credit hours may be earned as follows: ~~one hour credit for each hour of attendance at in-depth~~
27 seminars such as seminars sponsored by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), the
28 American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA), the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association
29 (NCVMA), and academies and schools of veterinary medicine. ~~Only one hour credit may be acquired~~
30 for attendance at a local sectional association meeting. ~~The Board shall consider additional course~~
31 offerings for approval for continuing education credit, provided that the Board is furnished sufficient
32 information to establish that the course content and quality is substantially comparable to the course
33 offerings by those seminars sponsored by the organizations or institutions listed in this Subparagraph.
34 Approval for continuing education credit for courses other than those specified herein shall be
35 obtained prior to attendance at a course; however, the Board may waive the requirement of approval
36 prior to attendance at the course if circumstances beyond the veterinarian's or registrant's control

1 ~~prevented obtaining the prior approval. Only three four hours credit per year may be acquired from~~
2 ~~review of an audio or video cassette or computer based training.~~

3 (5) Continuing education credits hours may be earned only from courses, programs, or materials presented
4 or approved by the following providers: American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA); the
5 American Animal Hospital Association; (AAHA), the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association
6 (NCVMA); the American Association of Veterinary State Boards' (AAVSB) Registry of Approved
7 Continuing Education (RACE); and academies or schools or colleges of veterinary medicine. These
8 providers are designated herein as "approved continuing education credit providers." The Board shall
9 consider additional courses, presentations or materials eligible for approval for continuing education
10 credit hours provided that the individual seeking the credit furnish the Board sufficient information to
11 establish that the content and quality of the course, presentation or material are substantially
12 comparable to that offered or approved by the approved continuing education credit providers. Board
13 approval for continuing education credits for such additional courses, presentations or materials shall
14 be obtained prior to attendance or participation; however, the Board may waive the requirement of
15 prior approval if circumstances beyond the control of the veterinarian or veterinary technician prevent
16 obtaining the prior approval.

17 (6) Subject to the limitations in this Rule, continuing education credit hours may be earned by attendance
18 at in-depth courses or presentations; or by completion of independent self-study courses or non-
19 interactive on-line presentations, courses or materials; or by completion of live interactive on-line
20 presentations or courses.

21 (7) One continuing education credit hour may be earned for each hour of attendance at courses presented
22 or approved by approved continuing education credit providers. Up to 25% of the CE requirement for
23 renewal may be obtained from independent self-study courses or materials, approved by approved
24 continuing education credit providers, with content transmitted through videos, DVDs, CDs,
25 prerecorded webinars, audio conferences, and non-interactive on-line presentations. Up to 50% of the
26 CE requirement for renewal may be obtained from live interactive on-line presentations or courses
27 approved by approved continuing education credit providers; provided, however, the number of credit
28 hours earned from live interactive on-line presentations or courses shall be reduced by the number of
29 credit hours earned from independent self-study courses or materials and non-interactive on-line
30 presentations or courses. A live interactive on-line presentation or course must:

31 (a) include instant or asynchronous two-way communication; and

32 (b) provide timely access to both technical personnel and professional faculty, as well as interactivity
33 among participants for the exchange of questions and answers via instant messaging or a moderated
34 teleconference; and

35 (c) document the level of participation.
36

1 ~~(5)~~(8) Each veterinarian and veterinary technician shall keep a record ~~of~~ for the three most recent renewal
2 periods of the content of courses submitted to the Board for continuing education credit hours.
3 ~~earned. Each year he or she shall certify on a form provided by the Board the number of credit hours~~
4 ~~earned. The Board shall mail the form to each veterinarian at the time of annual renewal.~~

5 ~~(6)~~(9) ~~During the calendar year in which a veterinarian graduates from veterinary college or during the~~
6 ~~calendar year in which a veterinary technician graduates from veterinary technician school, a~~
7 ~~veterinarian or veterinary technician, respectively, shall not be required to earn continuing education~~
8 ~~credits for that portion of the calendar year remaining from the date when the license or registration~~
9 ~~was issued to the end of the calendar year.~~

10 ~~(7)~~(10) A veterinarian licensed in the year of graduation from a veterinary medical college is not required to
11 earn continuing education credit hours to be eligible for license renewal for the next renewal period.

12 ~~(8)~~(11) A veterinary technician registered in the year of graduation from a veterinary medical technology
13 program is not required to earn continuing education credit hours to be eligible for registration renewal
14 for the next renewal period.

15 ~~(9)~~(12) A veterinarian or veterinary technician serving in the armed forces of the United States and to whom
16 an extension of time to file a tax return is granted pursuant to G.S. § 105-249.2 is granted the same
17 extension of time to comply with the continuing education requirement of this rule.

18
19 *History Note: Authority G.S. 90-185(6); 90-186(1);*

20 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

21 *Readopted Eff. September 30, 1977;*

22 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2018; June 1, 2003; May 1, 1996; May 1, 1989; January 1, 1987.*