

**Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training**

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Subject: **New Continuing Professional Education Requirement for Peace Officer Psychological Screening Evaluators**

Effective September 1, 2013, per [Commission Regulation 1955](#), peace officer psychological screening evaluators are required to complete POST-approved continuing professional education (CPE). There is an initial CPE requirement of **6 hours** which must be completed by **August 30, 2014**. Beginning **September 1, 2014**, evaluators will need to complete **12 hours** of POST-approved CPE **every two years** based on their biennial license renewal cycle.

In conjunction with the new CPE requirement, POST has developed a list of [Peace Officer Psychological Evaluator Competencies](#). These Competencies identify essential knowledge and abilities required of those who conduct psychological evaluations of peace officer candidates. These competencies will serve as the criteria for evaluating (CPE) courses submitted for POST approval.

To assist with the implementation of the CPE requirement, POST has developed a [CPE Tracking System \(CPETS\)](#). This online system, available on the POST website, enables the submission of both individual evaluator and CPE course information. A list of psychological screening evaluators and POST-approved CPE courses will be maintained on this site.

Supplementary information regarding the CPE requirement can be found in the attached FAQs. Additional questions can be directed to Melani Singley, Personnel Selection Consultant at [melani.singley@post.ca.gov](mailto:melani.singley@post.ca.gov) or 916.227.4258.

ROBERT A. STRESAK  
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Attachment (FAQs)

## Psychological Evaluator Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Requirement FAQs

### **1. How many hours of CPE must be completed and by when?**

Psychologists must complete **6 hours by August 30, 2014**. POST will accept CPE completed between *May 1, 2012 and August 30, 2014* for this initial 6 hour requirement.

**Beginning September 1, 2014, 12 hours of POST-approved CPE hours is required every two years.** The 12 hour requirement will coincide with the psychologist's biennial license renewal date and will be prorated .5 hours/month. For example, if a psychologist's license is up for renewal May 30, 2015, they would need to complete 4.5 hours of CPE by their license renewal date (9 months x .5 = 4.5).

### **2. Since licensed psychologists are already required to take continuing education courses, why is this new requirement necessary?**

Although the California Board of Psychology requires licensed psychologists to take 36 hours of approved continuing education (CE) biennially, there is no further requirement specifying the content or topics that must be covered (besides mandatory hours in Ethics). As such, there is no assurance that peace officer screening psychologists devote their CE hours to courses directly relevant to this purpose. The new POST regulation ensures that 12 of these 36 CE hours will involve instruction and education of direct relevance to this specialization.

### **3. What criteria will POST use to approve courses?**

POST-approved CPE is training that has met two specific criteria: course quality and relevance. Course quality is determined by prior approval by the California Board of Psychology (BOP) for continuing education, as well as other bona fide organizations. These BOP pre-approved CE courses will have met the quality requirement for POST approval.

The main focus of POST review will be on the content of instruction. To be POST-approved, CPE courses must address one or more of the competency areas described in the [POST Peace Officer Psychological Evaluator Competencies](#).

### **4. Who will be making these decisions?**

POST has assembled a panel of subject matter experts, consisting of leaders in the field of pre-employment psychological screening. This panel, along with POST staff, will evaluate the proposed courses.

### **5. Who will have to pick up the costs of these courses - the agency, the psychologist, or POST?**

Psychologists normally absorb the cost of CE courses, given that they are required to maintain their license. Therefore, it is assumed that psychologists will continue to pay for the cost of courses required to satisfy the new POST requirement.

**6. How do I submit my information to ensure that I meet the POST requirement?**

POST's on-line CPE Tracking System has a section specifically for [psychological evaluators](#). Evaluators will be asked to provide contact information (this can be the same information provided to BOP for licensure), license number, as well as completed course information, including associated documentation. At their discretion, evaluators may also upload a CV or resume.

**7. Will evaluator information be made public?**

Yes. As with the California Board of Psychology license verification system, the information provided by screening evaluators will be available on our website. However, evaluators will be able to maintain some of their information as private (e.g., phone number, email). Additionally, course completion verification information (e.g., certificates of completion, rosters) will not be available to the public.

Maintaining an online list of psychological evaluators will allow for the tracking of both evaluator information and CPE courses. It also provides a resource for law enforcement agencies seeking the services of psychological evaluators who have chosen peace officer screening as one of their specialties.

**8. How are courses submitted for approval?**

Providers – as well as others – may submit courses for approval through the on-line CPE tracking system. The submitted information will be reviewed to determine if it meets the required quality and content criteria. If approved, it will be added to the list of POST-approved courses.

**9. How do I find POST-approved training?**

[POST-approved CPE courses](#) are listed on the POST website.

**10. What responsibility will an agency have for meeting this requirement?**

POST will have an online list of psychologists who submitted verification of CPE in order to meet this requirement. Agencies will be able to access this list to ensure that their psychologists are in compliance. However, an agency's responsibility will be the same as that for ensuring that their psychologists meet current requirements of Government Code 1031(f) and POST Regulation 1955.