

• CE UPDATE •

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Demystifying the ARRT CE Requirements

In 1991, the ARRT announced its plans to start continuing education (CE) requirements for the renewal of certificate registration. Continuing education requirements became mandatory for renewal of ARRT registration starting in 1995. Reporting that you are in compliance with the mandatory CE requirements began in 1997. According to the ARRT, continuing education provides you with a mechanism to fulfill your responsibility to maintain competence and prevent professional obsolescence. Registered Technologists are required to comply with the ARRT's CE requirements regardless of their employment or registration status (except if officially designated as retired or disabled by the ARRT). The CE requirements apply to all ARRT Registered Technologists who are actively practicing and to technologists who are not currently practicing (inactive), but who either plan to return to active practice or think that return to active practice is a possibility.

Renewal of Registration

When an ARRT certificate is first issued, it is registered through the end of the technologist's next birth month. Thereafter, the certificate holder must complete the application for renewal of registration on an annual basis corresponding with their birth month.

“All Registered Technologists are required to renew their registration on an annual basis according to their birth month.”

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Participation in CE demonstrates accountability to peers, physicians, health care facilities, and the public. It also reinforces the Code of Ethics which is jointly endorsed by the ARRT and by the ASRT.

• Biennium Reporting Cycle

The CE requirements are linked to a two-year cycle (biennium). The biennium begins on the first day of the registrant's birth month and extends for two years to the end of the month prior to the birth month. Each registrant's biennium dates are printed in the lower left corner of the annual Application for Renewal of Registration and on the carrier they receive from the ARRT with their pocket credential card after renewing their registration, and can be verified on their website. All CE credits must be completed between these dates. Credits earned in one biennium cannot be carried forward into the next.

Continuing Education Rationale

Certification is a method of assuring the medical community and the public that an individual is qualified by knowledge and skills to practice within the profession. After initial certification, advancing technology and changing job responsibilities may require a technologist to update their knowledge and skills consistent with any new developments in medical imaging and radiation therapy. Continuing education (CE) provides a mechanism for technologists to fulfill their responsibility to

“All technologists are on a biennial period of CE reporting.”

Biennial CE Compliance Schedule

• Newly Certified Registrants

Technologists who have recently passed their first ARRT certification exam will begin their mandatory CE requirements on the first day of their next birth month after passing the examination.

Technologists who become registered in *additional* modalities will maintain the continuing education schedule established with their *initial* registration.

Biennial CE Requirements

There are three options for satisfying your biennial CE requirements:

1. Completion of twenty-four (24) Category A or A+ CE credits. A maximum of 12 CE credits per biennium may be from tumor boards. There is a cap on the maximum number of CE credits which can be earned from applications facility training at 8.0 Category A CE credits effective January 1, 2011; or by

2. Passing a primary examination in a discipline not previously passed and for which the individual is eligible; or by
3. Passing an approved post-primary examination not previously passed and for which the individual is eligible.

Probation Status: Failing to Meet CE Requirements

A technologist who applies for renewal of registration of a certificate, but who fails to meet the CE requirements within the previous biennium, will automatically be transferred to a "CE probation" status. Individuals who are on probation because they failed to meet the CE requirements will receive a credential indicating CE probation. The ARRT will report the status of any technologist to anyone who asks them for it. This includes all inquiries from your current or potential employer or virtually anyone who simply calls the ARRT and inquires about your status.

Technologists who have annually registered but are classified as being on probation because they did not meet the CE requirements may clear their probation status by successfully completing any one of the following during the first 12 months of the following biennium:

1. A *primary examination* in a discipline not previously passed and for which the individual is eligible; or by
2. An approved *post-primary examination* for which they are eligible; or by

3. *Continuing education credits.* If the continuing education option is used, the registrant will be required to complete the number of credits lacking from the 24 credits required during the previous biennium, plus an additional 12 "penalty" **category A** credits up to a maximum of 24 credits. In addition to the continuing education credits that are required during the first 12 months of the current biennium for removal from probation status, an additional 24 credits must be completed by the end of the biennium in order to remain in compliance with the requirements of the *current* biennium.

The ARRT Has Already Dropped Technologist Registrations

If a certificate on CE probation has not been brought into complete compliance to the satisfaction of the ARRT within one year, it will be considered to be no longer registered. The *only way* a technologist can regain registered status is to pass a new examination in a primary discipline in which they are eligible.

Beginning on January 1, 2001, two new rules took effect regarding the reinstatement of a technologist's registered status. First, the technologist is now required to submit an application for reinstatement within five years of the end of their CE probation year. In addition, the technologist is limited to three attempts to pass the exam in the three-year period following that application for reinstatement.

Responsibility of the Registered Technologist

If an activity is intended for use as Category A credit, the technologist is responsible for contacting the sponsor of the CE activity if there are questions as to whether the activity has received Category A approval. If the examination option is selected, the technologist must make sure that sufficient time is available to

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comply with the CE requirements in the event that the examination is not passed.

The technologist is responsible for maintaining proper documentation on activities even if an ARRT approved record keeping mechanism is used to track credits. The technologist is also responsible for providing proper documentation at the request of the ARRT for validation of CE participation. To be in good standing with the ARRT and to keep your RT registration secure you must satisfy the ARRT's 24 credit per biennium requirement.

For detailed information about the ARRT's Continuing Education Requirements, you can contact them at 651-687-0048 or www.arrrt.org.



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