

October 15, 2024

## **Commission Approves Revised ADA CERP Recognition Standards**

### **ADA CERP Recognition Standards 2026**

The Commission for Continuing Education Provider Recognition (CCEPR) approved a comprehensive revision of the ADA CERP Recognition Standards at its meeting September 26-27, 2024.

The new [ADA CERP Recognition Standards 2026](#) retain existing requirements for planning continuing education (CE) that is based on identified professional needs and the best available scientific evidence, and is developed independent of commercial interest.

By focusing on those essential aspects of planning and delivering effective CE, the number of standards and criteria have been substantially reduced. The new framework consists of five standards instead of the current 14, and the number of individual criteria a provider must meet has been reduced from 104 to 17.

“The goal of the Commission is to maintain the highest standards for continuing education,” reports Dr. Kecia Leary, CCEPR chair. “This ensures the public and our patients that dentists and allied oral health providers that receive continuing education from CERP recognized providers receive this education from organizations that strive for quality in their educational endeavors.”

The Commission’s action follows several years’ work and consideration of feedback from CE providers and other stakeholders who emphasized the need for streamlining and reducing complexity in recognition processes. The commission has also learned from CE accrediting agencies in other health professions, including the Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education and the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education, identifying commonalities and best practices in accreditation and continuing professional education.

In tandem with the ADA CERP Recognition Standards 2026, the Commission has also adopted the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education’s (ACCME) [Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education](#). The ACCME Standards will be linked to the ADA CERP Recognition Standards 2026, and will replace the current CERP Standard V.

The Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education are designed to:

- Ensure that continuing education serves the needs of patients and the public
- Present learners with only accurate, balanced, scientifically justified recommendations
- Assure learners they can trust continuing education to help them deliver safe, effective care that is based on best practice and evidence
- Create a clear separation between continuing education and marketing and sales.

The ACCME Standards for Integrity and Independence have been adopted by eight accrediting bodies representing multiple health professions. ADA CERP will represent the ninth profession to adopt these guidelines.

### **Next Steps**

The ADA CERP Recognition Standards 2026 will take effect on June 1, 2026, in order to give CE providers time to familiarize themselves and transition to the new standards.

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The ADA CERP application process is also being revised to reflect the revised Standards. The first cohort of providers evaluated under the new Standards will be those submitting applications in January 2027.

The Commission will host a series of webinars and informational sessions leading up to the implementation date to help educators and planners transition.

For more information about the ADA CERP Recognition Standards 2026, visit the CCEPR website at [CCEPR.ADA.org](https://CCEPR.ADA.org). Information, learning opportunities and toolkits for providers will be added in the coming months.

Contact CCEPR at [cerp@ada.org](mailto:cerp@ada.org).