

Continuing Education: A Concise Guide for Virginia Behavioral Health Providers

Whether you're providing peer support, working toward licensure, or practicing as a seasoned clinician, this guide offers resources to help you meet renewal requirements, advance your skills, and continue delivering high-quality care. With a robust library of expert-developed, evidence-based courses and resources, Psych Hub empowers providers to stay current on best practices and interventions. Our platform has supported tens of thousands of professionals in strengthening their knowledge, enhancing their practice, and improving outcomes for the individuals and communities they serve.

[Here you will find an overview of Psych Hub's Top Picks](#)

Disclaimer: Psych Hub provides accredited educational content, but is not the regulatory authority for CE approval or license renewal. Virginia behavioral health providers must verify all continuing education requirements directly with their licensing board to ensure compliance.

- [Virginia Board of Counseling](#)
- [Virginia Board of Social Work](#)
- [Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services \(DBHDS\)](#)

This guide includes resources tailored for the following professionals:

- **Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFTs)**
- **Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs)**
- **Licensed Substance Abuse Treatment Practitioners (LSATPs)**
- **Licensed Clinical Social Workers**
- **Licensed Baccalaureate Social Workers**
- **Licensed Master's Social Workers**
- **Certified Substance Abuse Counselors (CSACs)**
- **Certified Substance Abuse Counseling Assistants (CSAC-As)**
- **Registered Peer Recovery Specialists (RPRSs)**
- **Qualified Mental Health Professionals (QMHPs)**
- **Residents in Counseling & Marriage and Family Therapy**

- **Behavioral Health Technicians and Technician Assistants**

Recognized CE Approval Agencies

Virginia licensing boards and the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) generally accept continuing education (CE) from nationally recognized accrediting bodies. Psych Hub offers accredited courses that meet these standards, including approvals from the following organizations:

- **Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB)**
- **National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC)**
- **American Psychological Association (APA)**

CE Requirements Overview by Role

License/Role	CE Hours Required	Required Topics	Online Learning Permitted	Recommended Accrediting organizations to select on the Psych Hub Platform	Other Notes
Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFTs)	20 hours per year	2 hours in ethics	Yes	NBCC, APA	Content must relate to counseling or therapy. No in-person training required.
Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs)	20 hours per year	2 hours in ethics	Yes	NBCC, APA	Online/self-paced CE accepted from approved providers.

<u>Licensed Substance Abuse Treatment Practitioners (LSATPs)</u>	20 hours per year	2 hours in ethics	Yes	NBCC, APA	CE must address substance use and/or co-occurring disorders.
<u>Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs)</u>	30 hours every 2 years (even years)	6 hours in ethics	Yes	ASWB	Up to 2 CE hours may be earned through volunteer work (3 hrs volunteer work = 1 CE hr).
<u>Licensed Master's Social Workers (LMSWs)</u>	15 hours every 2 years (even years)	2 hours in ethics	Yes	ASWB	Courses must align with social work competencies.
<u>Licensed Baccalaureate Social Workers (LBSWs)</u>	15 hours every 2 years (even years)	2 hours in ethics	Yes	ASWB	No in-person training required.
<u>Certified Substance Abuse Counselors (CSACs)</u>	10 hours per year	Topics relevant to substance use disorder treatment	Yes	NBCC, APA	Must enhance clinical knowledge and treatment skills.

<u>Certified Substance Abuse Counseling Assistants (CSAC-As)</u>	5 hours per year	Topics relevant to substance use disorder treatment	Yes	NBCC, APA	CE supports progression toward CSAC.
<u>Qualified Mental Health Professionals (QMHPs)</u>	8 hours per year	Topics relevant to behavioral health service delivery	Yes	APA, NBCC	Requirements may vary by agency or Medicaid credentialing.
<u>Registered Peer Recovery Specialists (RPRSs)</u>	8 hours per year	1 hour in ethics; 2 hours in core peer recovery competencies	Yes	APA, NBCC	Initial certification may require in-person training, but CE can be completed online.
Residents in Counseling & Marriage and Family Therapy	<i>*Review the handbooks linked for more details</i> <u>Resident LMFT</u> <u>Resident LPC</u> <u>Resident LSATP</u>	3 hours in ethics (recommended)	Yes	APA, NBCC	Follow board handbooks and supervisor guidance.
<u>Behavioral Health Technicians & Assistants</u>	2 hours per year	2 hours in ethics	Yes	ASWB, APA, NBCC	CE is often agency-directed or tied to Medicaid credentialing standards.

Recommendations Based on Themes & Required Topics

Psych Hub offers more than 100 evidence-based continuing education (CE) courses, many of which are approved by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB), the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), and the American Psychological Association (APA). These courses are aligned with Virginia's requirements for professional development and support providers in maintaining licensure while enhancing their clinical skills.

Below is a curated selection of Psych Hub courses, organized by key CE themes and commonly required or recommended topics for behavioral health providers in Virginia.

ETHICS & BOUNDARIES

- Ethics: Reconsidering Dual Relationships
- Ethics: Self-Disclosure in Therapy
- Ethical Issues in Couples and Family Therapy
- Older Adult Care: Fundamental Treatment Ethics
- Supervision in Mental Healthcare
- Social Media Ethics in Mental Healthcare
- Ongoing HIPAA Compliance
- Professional Wills
- Telehealth: Legal and Ethical Issues

SUICIDE PREVENTION & RISK ASSESSMENT

- Suicidal Behavior Competency
- Safety Planning
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Reducing Suicide Risk
- Counseling on Access to Lethal Means (CALM)
- Foundations in the Safety Planning Intervention for Clinicians
- Suicide Prevention, Assessment, and Intervention

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS (SUD)

- Substance Use Treatment Series
 - Understanding Addiction
 - Assessing Substance Use Risk
 - Motivational Interviewing: Foundations

- Motivational Interviewing: Substance Use Disorder
- Mental Health Competency 3: Substance Use Awareness

TRAUMA & CRISIS RESPONSE

- Trauma-Informed Care Foundations 1 & 2
- Verbal De-escalation Skills Training
- Helping in a Mental Health Crisis
- Treating Trauma: The ACT Matrix
- Racial Stress and Trauma: Helping Youth Heal

CULTURAL RESPONSIVENESS

- Diversity and Mental Health
- Understanding and Overcoming Bias
- Culturally Responsive Behavioral Healthcare
- Intersectional Authenticity with LGBTQ+ Clients
- Dismantling Racial Oppression in Clinical Practice
- Understanding Mixed Race Identity Development
- Therapy Cafe: Racial Stress and Trauma
- Therapy Cafe: Culturally-Responsive Mental Health Care

All Psych Hub courses are self-paced, available online, and include certificates of completion that can be used to document CE hours.