



Council on Optometric Practitioner Education

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A Program of the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry for Accreditation of CE

COPE Extends Rule Modification for Interactive Online CE Through December 31, 2021

Due to continued state restrictions and CDC guidelines related to COVID-19, COPE has made the decision to extend the temporary rules modification to allow COPE Administrators and Providers to present CE activities through an INTERACTIVE ONLINE format and give LIVE COPE CE credit through December 31, 2021.

COPE has temporarily modified our rules to allow COPE Administrators and Accredited Providers to give LIVE credit for CE courses if they are presented in an INTERACTIVE DISTANCE LEARNING format. In order to be considered interactive, attendees must be able to have immediate interaction with the instructor (i.e. live webinar, videoconference). The activity can only be presented at one specified time, and once it has taken place the learners may no longer participate in that activity. COPE Administrators and Accredited Providers must have a way to confirm the learners' attendance for every course before issuing certificates of attendance. Post-course tests will not be required for this modified type of activity.

COPE Administrators and Accredited Providers who are planning to present LIVE CE in an INTERACTIVE DISTANCE LEARNING format should submit all courses and activities to COPE as LIVE. The usual required pre- and post-activity data must be submitted to COPE for activities to be considered COPE Accredited. CEE (transcript quality or certified CE) courses are not included in the waiver. All CEE courses must be presented in person, face-to-face, per State Board requirements regarding CEE. Please note that although COPE's rules are being modified to allow INTERACTIVE DISTANCE LEARNING to count as LIVE CE, individual State and Provincial Optometry Boards may have different rules. We advise you to contact the State or Provincial Boards where your attendees are licensed for verification.

If you are planning an ENDURING DISTANCE LEARNING activity where there is not immediate interaction with the instructor and the participants can choose when to participate over a period of time, you should continue to follow COPE's rules regarding ENDURING DISTANCE LEARNING (a post-course test must be administered which has been reviewed by a school of optometry, medicine, pharmacy or osteopathy.)

We thank all our COPE Administrators and Instructors for all their hard work and dedication during this difficult time. COPE's guidelines for presenting COPE-Accredited LIVE, INTERACTIVE, DISTANCE LEARNING activities are posted on our website: https://www.arbo.org/Guidelines_for_Live_Interactive_Distance_Learning_Activities.pdf. If you have questions about the rule modification please contact Sierra Powell, Manager of Accreditation Services, at spowell@arbo.org.