



## MEMORANDUM

<b>DATE</b>	October 9, 2013
<b>TO</b>	Psychology Board Members
<b>FROM</b>	Colette McDowell Continuing Education Analyst
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>Agenda Item 10 (Continuing Education Committee) (d):</b> Request to Amend Regulation Requirements Regarding Independent Learning, California Code of Regulations Sections 1397.60(e) and 1397.61(a)

### **Background:**

On July 24, 2013, Dr. Miguel Gallardo, Chair of the Continuing Education (CE) Committee, received an e-mail from Dr. Scott Bass, requesting the Board amend the current CE regulations to allow 100% independent learning. Current CE regulations mandate that independent learning can be used to meet no more than 75% (27 hours) of the continuing education required in each renewal cycle.

### **Action Requested:**

The Continuing Education Committee will conduct an open discussion regarding Dr. Bass' request to amend the existing CE regulations, and make recommendations to the Board regarding the requested amendment to the existing CE regulations.

McDowell, Colette@DCA

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From: Miguel Gallardo [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 12:24 PM  
To: McDowell, Colette@DCA  
Subject: Fwd: Formal Request to Modify Independent Learning

Here is the email...

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Scott Bass** [REDACTED]  
Date: 2013/7/24  
Subject: Formal Request to Modify Independent Learning  
To: Miguel Gallardo [REDACTED]

July 24, 2013

Attention: Dr. Miguel Gallardo, PSY.D, Chair of the CE Committee

Re: Independent Learning

To: The California Board of Psychology

Psychologists' lives are filled with many opportunities to learn and grow. Continuing education (CE) is a vital way in which we achieve this development. Some psychologists enjoy the opportunity to attend a live CE course. However, there is preparation and driving involved, which can consume many hours of precious time. Other psychologists would rather read a book, watch a video or attend an online seminar because they are able to accomplish these activities at their own pace, while being free of most external stressors.

Since The Board changed its independent learning policy from 50% to 75%, technology has brought forth many new ways in which we can experience a CE course in the comfort of our homes or offices. For example, Wi-Fi, smart phones and tablets allow us to access information quicker and easier than ever before. Psychologists will often have downtime because of scheduling issues, long hours and cancellations. It is during these times, for example, that we could be more involved in independent learning requirements, while avoiding stressors such as traffic or time constraints. Based on the ATTBS statistics on continuing education ([http://www.aatbs.com/ce\\_approval.asp](http://www.aatbs.com/ce_approval.asp)), there are **twenty-two states** that already allow psychologists to accrue 100% of their CE's through independent learning methods.

Psychologists are very busy individuals who try to balance their career with family obligations and life's demands. Based on the changing technologies that are now available, the precedent set by the aforementioned twenty-two states and the time constraints we as professionals must deal with, I am asking The Board to consider changing its independent learning policy by allowing psychologists the option to complete 100% of their CE's via independent learning methods. I do not anticipate this potential change having any negative economic impact on the organizations that provide in-person CE as most, if not all of them, also provide independent learning courses.

I appreciate The Board's time and consideration in taking up this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Scott Bass, Psy.D-PSY18843