



Informational Letter for Legal Specialist Continuing Legal Education (LSCLE) Reporting

Under rules adopted effective January 1, 2014, all certified specialists will now report their LSCLE compliance at the same time that they report their general MCLE compliance. Specialists are required to complete at least 36 hours of LSCLE-approved education or an equivalent each compliance reporting period.

While MCLE compliance is reported online through the licensee's My State Bar Profile, LSCLE compliance is reported online in the Admissions Applicant Portal. Alternatively, LSCLE can be reported through a physical compliance card, and copies of the form are available on the State Bar's [Forms](#) page.

The following information summarizes equivalents that may assist you in fulfilling your LSCLE requirement.

Include MCLE-approved education in your specialty area.

MCLE-approved education may be counted toward your LSCLE requirement if the subject of the course is specifically related to your specialty area of law. Note that the California Board of Legal Specialization (CBLS) retains the final discretion to determine whether a course qualifies as an equivalent. As in the past, please be sure to keep documentation for at least a year after the compliance reporting deadline to demonstrate that the course is substantively relevant to your specialty area of law if asked to provide further information by the CBLS.

Claim up to 18 hours of credit for using self-study alternatives.

As in previous years, time spent on scholarly writing in the specialty area can be used to satisfy up to 18 hours (i.e. half) of your total requirement. In addition, for first-time presentations at an approved and qualified MCLE and/or LSCLE activity, you may claim four hours of credit for every hour of actual presentation time.

Note that LSCLE subfield requirements for applicable specialties are permanently waived.

By CBLS action, the LSCLE subfield requirements for certified specialists in Appellate Law, Estate Planning, Trust & Probate Law, Family Law, and Immigration & Nationality Law will be waived. All certified specialists are still encouraged to take a range of educational courses to maintain a broad base of expertise in the specialty.

Note that the LSCLE subfields are different from the MCLE subfields required for your general MCLE reporting; when you report your MCLE compliance on your My State Bar Profile, you will still need to comply with those subfield requirements for Legal Ethics, Competence Issues, and Recognition and Elimination of Bias.

Certified specialists who were initially certified in the middle of their reporting period have a reduced and proportional requirement.

For first-time certified specialists who were certified in the middle of their reporting period, the educational requirement is prorated. For example, a certified specialist who was certified for the first-time for half of the 36-month compliance period would need to report half of the 36-hour educational requirement, or 18 hours, of LSCLE. Conveniently, since there are 36 months in a compliance period, and the educational reporting requirement for the period is 36 hours, the prorated total will be equal to one hour for each month that you have been a certified specialist.

If you have been a certified specialist for an entire reporting period, do not prorate your education, regardless of your recertification date.

Frequently asked questions for special situations.

Do I have to complete 25 hours of MCLE plus 36 hours of LSCLE every reporting period?

For reference regarding the CLE reporting requirement(s) for specialists:

General MCLE - 25 hours of MCLE taken within a given reporting period (i.e. 2/1/18–1/31/21); reported through their [My State Bar Profile](#)

- 19 hours of general MCLE
- six hours of MCLE subfield credits:
 - o at least four hours of legal ethics
 - o at least one hour on competence issues
 - o at least one hour in elimination of bias

LSCLE - 36 hours of LSCLE in their respective specialty area; taken within the same reporting period; reported through the [Admissions Applicant Portal](#)

- these may count towards the 19 hours of the general MCLE requirement as noted above, but not the MCLE subfields

Using the notes above as reference, specialists, at a minimum, must complete 42 hours of CLE; 36 hours of LSCLE courses in their specialty area, plus the six hours of MCLE subfield courses.

How do I know if a course is approved for LSCLE credit?

The certificate(s) of attendance will specifically note if a course was pre-approved for LSCLE credit in a specific specialty area.

Dual specialists will need to submit two compliance forms.

Certified specialists who hold more than one certificate of specialization must submit one compliance form per specialty area by the same reporting deadline.

I can't login to the Admissions Applicant Portal

Please email legalspec@calbar.ca.gov if you have trouble logging in. **Note that you should not create or register a new account.**

As a reminder, the Admissions Applicant Portal and your My State Bar Profile are entirely separate. Any updates to contact information in one, does not affect the other. Additionally, contact information in Admissions Applicant Portal is not shared with the public, and will be used solely for communications regarding the Legal Specialization program.