



NEW YORK STATE CLE BOARD

Newly Admitted Attorneys

AN OVERVIEW OF NEW YORK'S
CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

JANUARY 2026

Overview of CLE Requirement for Newly Admitted Attorneys

What is my CLE requirement as a newly admitted attorney?

[Newly admitted attorneys](#) (admitted to the NY Bar for 2 years or less) must earn a total of 32 CLE credit hours (with 16 credit hours each year) in the newly admitted cycle. You must complete courses with [content that is appropriate](#) for newly admitted attorneys and in a [format that is permissible](#) for the [category of credit](#):

Newly Admitted Attorney Required CLE Categories	Year 1 CLE Credit Hours	Year 2 CLE Credit Hours	Formats Permissible for the Category of Credit
Law Practice Management, Areas of Professional Practice, and/or Cybersecurity, Privacy and Data Protection-General (see below)	7	7	- Traditional live classroom - Live simultaneous transmission – questions allowed during program (e.g., webconference, teleconference, videoconference) - Live simultaneous transmission – questions not allowed during program (e.g., webcast, broadcast) - Fully interactive videoconference - Prerecorded/on-demand
Skills	6	6	- Traditional live classroom - Fully interactive videoconference
Ethics and Professionalism Cybersecurity, Privacy and Data Protection-Ethics (see below)	3	3	- Traditional live classroom - Live simultaneous transmission – questions allowed during program (e.g., webconference, teleconference, videoconference) - Fully interactive videoconference
Total	16	16	

Cybersecurity, Privacy and Data Protection (“Cybersecurity”) Category

You must complete at least 1 credit in Cybersecurity as part of the 32-credit requirement. You may choose to complete the Cybersecurity credit:

- in Year 1 or Year 2 (as part of the 16 credit-requirement for that year)
- in Cybersecurity General or Cybersecurity Ethics (or a combination of the two)

You may apply a maximum of 3 credit hours of Cybersecurity Ethics - but not Cybersecurity General - toward your 6-credit Ethics and Professionalism requirement

Example: if you complete 1 credit in Cybersecurity Ethics in Year 1, you satisfy your Cybersecurity requirement, and then need to complete only 2 credits in Ethics and Professionalism for that year.

Example: if you complete 1 credit in Cybersecurity General in Year 1, you satisfy your Cybersecurity requirement and must complete an additional 6 credits in Law Practice Management, Areas of Professional Practice, and/or Cybersecurity, Privacy, and Data Protection-General for that year.

May I earn CLE credits before I am admitted to the New York Bar?

Yes. You may earn a maximum of 16 CLE credits for attendance at accredited CLE courses that are appropriate for newly admitted attorneys from the date of law school graduation, up through the date of admission to the New York Bar. These credits must be completed in a format permissible for the category of credit and may be applied towards your first-year requirement.

Credit hours in excess of 16 may not be carried over and applied to your second-year requirement. No credit may be awarded for attendance at courses occurring more than two years before the date of admission to the New York Bar. You may not earn credit for any other CLE activities completed before you were admitted to the Bar.

Do out-of-state courses count toward my CLE requirement?

Some out-of-state courses are accredited by the New York State CLE Board. Other out-of-state courses may be accredited by another jurisdiction, and you may be able to apply credits earned for attendance at those courses to your CLE requirement through New York's [Approved Jurisdiction policy](#).

How do I fulfill the format requirements for newly admitted attorneys if I practice in a foreign country?

Newly admitted attorneys based in law offices outside the United States may earn a maximum of 16 of the required 32 credit hours through any approved format. The remaining credits must be completed in a format permissible for the category of credit (see table above and [information about CLE format requirements](#)).

If I earn more credits than I need, may I carry over excess credits into another year or another reporting cycle?

If you earn more than 16 CLE credit hours before the first anniversary of admission to the Bar, you may carry over and apply up to 8 of your additional credits earned during the first year of admission toward your second-year requirement.

Once the second-year requirement is complete, you may apply up to 6 additional credits earned only in your second year toward the next reporting cycle. Ethics and Professionalism and Cybersecurity, Privacy and Data Protection-Ethics credits may not be carried over.

Am I required to fulfill New York's CLE requirement if I practice law in NY and in another jurisdiction?

Yes, you are required to fulfill New York's CLE requirement if you practice law in New York at any time during your newly admitted attorney CLE reporting cycle.

Do I need to complete the New York CLE requirement if I am not practicing law in New York?

If you do **not** practice law in New York **at all** during your newly admitted attorney CLE reporting cycle, you are exempt from New York's CLE requirement. Please read "[Not Practicing Law in New York](#)." An exemption from the CLE requirement affects neither an attorney's good standing with the New York Bar nor the attorney's ability to resume the practice of law in New York at a later date.

What if I was practicing in another jurisdiction before I was admitted to the New York Bar?

If you were practicing law in another state, the District of Columbia, any territory of the United States or any foreign jurisdiction, for at least five of the seven years immediately preceding admission to the New York Bar, you will not be deemed newly admitted for the purposes of CLE, and you must comply with the CLE requirement for experienced attorneys.

Must I send my CLE certificates to the CLE Board? Who tracks my CLE compliance?

Please do not send your CLE certificates to the CLE Board. The New York State CLE program is a self-reporting system. You are responsible for tracking your compliance with the CLE requirement. You must retain certificates of attendance, and/or other documentation of compliance with, or exemption from, the CLE requirement, for a period of at least four years from the date of the course or program, and [report your compliance](#) as part of your biennial attorney registration.

Congratulations and welcome to the New York State Bar!

[New York State Continuing Legal Education Board](#)

What if I have more questions?

Please refer to the [CLE website](#) for [FAQs for newly admitted attorneys](#), [CLE Program Rules](#) and the [CLE Board Regulations and Guidelines](#). You may also e-mail your questions to CLE@nycourts.gov.

Please check the website periodically for updated information, as changes to the Rules or Regulations may affect your requirement.



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