

CLE CREDIT FOR TEACHING CIVICS COURSES

Can I claim CLE credit for providing civics education to non-lawyer members of the public?

Yes. You can claim 1.0 General Category III CLE credit for every two hours of volunteer time spent teaching a legal education activity to nonlawyers high school age and older. (See MCLE Rule 5.12(b) and Regulation 5.300(b)).

Does my teaching have to be volunteer in order to claim CLE credit?

Yes. For CLE credit for teaching nonlawyers, you must perform the teaching activity on an uncompensated volunteer basis. (See MCLE Rule 5.12(b) and Regulation 5.300(b)).

What topics can I teach and receive credit?

The accreditation standard is that the primary purpose of the volunteer teaching activity is the provision of legal services or legal expertise. (See MCLE Rule 5.12(b) and Regulation 5.300(b)). Therefore, the education you are providing must require your legal expertise or legal services. For example, a presentation on the rights of residential tenants in Oregon would qualify for credit, whereas a presentation on organic gardening would not.

Can I complete all of my CLE credits by teaching civics courses?

No. Category III credit is General credit only and does not qualify for specialty credit. And, there is a cap of 6 Category III credits per three-year reporting cycle and 3 Category III credits in a shorter cycle. (See MCLE Rule 6.1(c)).

What if I want to claim credit for providing education to nonlawyers, but am not sure it qualifies?

You can email or call the MCLE Program manager directly to discuss your presentation. The MCLE Program Manager determines whether your teaching activity qualifies for credit. (See MCLE Rule 5.12(b) and Regulation 5.300(b)). If you contact the MCLE Program Manager in advance of claiming your credit, and she determines your program does meet the accreditation standard, she gladly provide you with written approval to claim credit for your time spent teaching. You can retain this written approval to present in the event of an audit.

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