Continuing/Professional Education

All Geosymmetrics, LLC paid for training meets or exceeds State specific Professional Development (PD) or Continuing Education (CE) hours per statute or regulation as explained in this document. In summary this document describes Qualified Training Providers who must hosted by a College/University, Professional Association, Government Agency, or Commercial Vendor. Qualified instructors must be content subject matter experts with advanced degrees, active licensure, or be a recognized industry authority. The instructor(s) must document educational objectives and have a structured syllabi/agenda along with Proof-of-Completion by attendees and attendance verification tracking.

For instructor qualifications see the Geosymmetrics website regarding instructor qualifications.

This document explains the various Professional Development Hours (PDH) or Continuing Education Hours (CEH or CE) for Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado.

Continuing education requirements for Professional Land Surveyors (PLS) across Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, and Colorado follow similar biennial patterns, with **Arizona** being the notable exception.

Overview & Comparison

State	Required Hours	Cycle Duration	Renewal Deadline	Mandatory Ethics Hours	Max Carryover Hours
Utah	**30 PDH**	2 Years (Biennial)	March 31 (Odd Years)	None mandatory	Up to 15 PDH
Arizona	**0 PDH**	3 Years (Triennial)	Date of Initial Licensure	N/A	N/A
New Mexico	**30 PDH**	2 Years (Biennial)	December 31	**2 PDH**	Up to 15 PDH
Nevada	**30 PDH**	2 Years (Biennial)	Varies by Last Name	**2 PDH**	Up to 15 PDH
Colorado	**30 CEH**	2 Years (Biennial)	October 31 (Odd Years)	None mandatory (Max 2 count)	Up to 15 CEH

State-By-State Details

1. Utah

- **Licensing Board:** Utah Division of Professional Licensing (DOPL)
- **Hour Requirement: 30 Professional Development Hours (PDH)** every 2 years.
- **Renewal Cycle:** Renewal occurs biennially in odd-numbered years on **March 31**.
- **Ethics Requirement:** None required, though ethics courses are accepted as general electives.
- **Key Considerations:** Dual licensees (e.g., PE + PLS) generally must complete PDHs relevant to both disciplines. Up to 15 unused PDHs earned in excess of the 30-hour requirement can be carried forward to the next renewal cycle.

2. Arizona

- **Licensing Board:** Arizona State Board of Technical Registration (AZBTR)
- **Hour Requirement: 0 PDH**. Arizona is one of the few states that does not mandate continuing education for maintaining a land surveying registration.
- **Renewal Cycle:** Licenses renew every **3 years** based on the original date of licensure.
- **Key Considerations:** While the state board does not track or require PDHs, surveyors belonging to national associations (e.g., NSPS, CLSA) or licensed in neighboring states must maintain CE records for those jurisdictions or professional memberships.

3. New Mexico

- **Licensing Board:** New Mexico Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors (NBPELS)
- **Hour Requirement: 30 PDH** every 2 years.
- **Renewal Cycle:** Licenses expire on **December 31** on a staggered biennial schedule based on the initial licensing year (odd vs. even year).
- **Ethics Requirement: 2 PDH** in Ethics/Professional Conduct are required per cycle.
- **Key Considerations:** A maximum of 15 PDHs may be carried over to the following renewal period. Dual PE/PS licensees in New Mexico must meet specific requirements that cover both engineering and surveying practices.

4. Nevada

- **Licensing Board:** Nevada State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (NVBPELS)
- **Hour Requirement: 30 PDH** every 2 years.
- **Renewal Cycle:** Staggered biennially based on the first letter of the licensee's last name:
    - **A – E:** January 1 (Odd Years)
    - **F – K:** July 1 (Odd Years)
    - **L – R:** January 1 (Even Years)
    - **S – Z:** July 1 (Even Years)
- **Ethics Requirement: 2 PDH** in professional ethics or Nevada survey law are required.
- **Key Considerations:** Up to 15 PDHs can be carried over. Nevada requires course material to directly contribute to professional competence in land surveying practice.

5. Colorado

- **Licensing Board:** Colorado State Board of Licensure for Architects, Professional Engineers, and Professional Land Surveyors (AES)
- **Hour Requirement: 30 Continuing Education Hours (CEH)** every 2 years.
- **Renewal Cycle:** Biennial renewal on **October 31 of odd-numbered years**.
- **Ethics Requirement:** No mandatory ethics minimum, but a maximum of **2 CEHs** in ethics courses can be applied toward the 30-hour total per renewal cycle.
- **Key Considerations:** Newly licensed land surveyors who obtain their initial license via examination during the current licensing period are exempt from continuing education until after their first renewal. The board does not pre-approve providers; individual licensees are responsible for ensuring coursework meets qualitative standards.

In most state engineering and land surveying licensing boards across these jurisdictions, **there is no formal "continuing education instructor certification" or pre-registration process for providers**. Instead, boards place the responsibility on the **licensee** to ensure that the instructor and provider meet specific standards of competency, structure, and subject relevancy.

Instructor and provider qualifications generally fall under standard qualitative criteria:

Overview of Instructor & Provider Criteria

Qualifying Provider Types

- Accredited Universities/Colleges
- Professional Associations (NSPS, NASS, CLSA, local state societies)
- Government Agencies (USGS, BLM, DOT, NGS)
- Commercial CE/PDH Vendors

General Instructor Qualifications

- Subject Matter Expertise (Advanced degree, active licensure, or recognized industry authority)
- Documented Educational Objectives & Structured Syllabi
- Proof-of-Completion & Attendance Verification Tracking

State-by-State Breakdown

1. Utah

- **Provider Approval:** Utah (DOPL) does not formally pre-approve individual instructors or training vendors.
- **Instructor Criteria:**
    - Courses must be taught by individuals with **recognized expertise** in the subject matter (e.g., licensed surveyors, legal scholars in land boundary law, geodesists, software specialists).

    - Instructors teaching academic coursework at an accredited university or college automatically qualify.
    - **Instructor PDH Credit:** Licensees who present or instruct a qualified CE course earn **2× PDH credits** for the initial presentation time (preparation and teaching), up to a state-specified cap per renewal cycle.

2. Arizona

- **Instructor Criteria: N/A.** Because Arizona does not require continuing education or PDHs to maintain a land surveying license, the state board has no criteria for providers or instructors.

3. New Mexico

- **Provider Approval:** The New Mexico Board (NBPELS) does not pre-certify commercial providers or instructors.
- **Instructor Criteria:**
    - Courses must be conducted by individuals whose **education and experience qualify them as experts** in the subject presented.
    - Acceptable providers include academic institutions, professional surveying organizations (such as the New Mexico Professional Surveyors association), and commercial vendors whose courses meet technical standards.
    - **Teaching Credit:** Licensees who act as instructors for qualified CE programs or academic courses can claim credit for teaching, provided it is their first time delivering that specific content.

4. Nevada

- **Provider Approval:** Nevada (NVBPELS) **does not pre-approve** providers or individual courses.
- **Instructor Criteria:**
    - Instructors must possess adequate professional background and technical competence in the specific domain being taught.
    - Courses must have clear learning objectives, a structured syllabus, and a verifiable method of tracking completion (e.g., timed online modules with graded quizzes or attendance logs for live seminars).
    - **Teaching Credit:** Licensees who teach a qualifying course receive PDH credits equal to twice the duration of the presentation for the first offering.

5. Colorado

- **Provider Approval:** The Colorado Board (AES) **does not pre-approve** courses or CE providers.
- **Instructor Criteria:**
    - Instructors must be qualified by **education or experience** to teach the specific subject matter.

- Courses must feature clear purpose, organized pre-planning, and relevant technical or legal content.
- **Documentation Mandate:** The provider/instructor **must issue an official Certificate of Completion**. This certificate must detail:
    1. Instructor/Provider name and contact details.
    2. Activity title, date, and location.
    3. Total Continuing Education Hours (CEH) awarded.

Key Takeaway for Potential Instructors

If you intend to deliver continuing education to surveyors in Utah, New Mexico, Nevada, or Colorado:

1. **No State Registration Required:** You generally do not need to apply to or pay a fee to state licensing boards to become an "approved" instructor.
2. **Compliance Responsibility:** You must provide participants with a **detailed syllabus/agenda** and a **Certificate of Completion** containing verifiable course and contact details.
3. **Subject Matter Audit:** If a licensee is audited, the board will review the instructor's background and course outline to confirm that the material contributed directly to professional surveying competence.

Primary Sources & Governing Authorities

The information compiled above is drawn from state administrative codes, statutory statutes, and rules issued by the individual state licensing boards as follows:

1. **Utah**
    - **Governing Body:** Utah Division of Professional Licensing (DOPL) / Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors Licensing Board.
    - **Primary Source:** Utah Administrative Code, Rule R156-22 (Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors Licensing Act Rule).
2. **Arizona**
    - **Governing Body:** Arizona State Board of Technical Registration (AZBTR).
    - **Primary Source:** Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S. Title 32, Chapter 1) & Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C. Title 4, Chapter 30).
3. **New Mexico**
    - **Governing Body:** New Mexico Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors (NBPELS).
    - **Primary Source:** New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC Title 16, Chapter 39, Part 2 - Continuing Professional Development).
4. **Nevada**
    - **Governing Body:** Nevada State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (NVBPELS).

- **Primary Source:** Nevada Administrative Code (NAC Chapter 625) & Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS Chapter 625).

5. **Colorado**
    - **Governing Body:** Colorado State Board of Licensure for Architects, Professional Engineers, and Professional Land Surveyors (AES).
    - **Primary Source:** Code of Colorado Regulations (4 CCR 730-1, Rule 1.9 - Continuing Education Requirements for Professional Land Surveyors).