

Washington Suicide Prevention Training (Model List) FAQ for Health Professionals

Model List

What is the Model List?

The Model List is a list of suicide prevention trainings that meet content and time requirements required by legislation ([RCW 43.70.442](#)). Trainings on the Model List have been reviewed and approved by the Washington State Department of Health. Starting July 1, 2017, certain health professionals became required to take an approved suicide prevention course off the Washington State Department of Health's Model List. In recent years, other health professions not included in the original legislation, have been added to the list of professionals required to take a Model List training (e.g., athletic trainers).

How do I know if I am required to take a training off the Model List?

You can find the list of health professionals required to take a suicide prevention training off the Model List on the [Suicide Prevention Training for Health Professionals webpage](#). That webpage also provides the length and frequency of training needed. If you have additional questions, please reach out to your [professional board](#) or the suicide prevention program at SuicidePreventionPlan@doh.wa.gov

Where and to who do I submit my proof of training to?

You submit verification that you completed your required training when you renew your professional license. If you have questions about how to submit your license renewal and proof of completed training, please [contact your professional board](#). We do not need proof that you completed a training and cannot approve a suicide prevention training that you took if it is not on the Model List.

I would like to take a training specific to my profession, where can I find these?

There are a few health professions where specific training content has been developed (e.g., pharmacists). On the [Model List webpage](#), we try and mark these. For some professions (e.g., Acupuncturists), we do not have approved tailored trainings. We hope to continue to work with training developers to offer a variety of trainings applicable to all health professionals. If you do not see a training specific to your profession, please take a general training that meets your profession's clock-hour requirements.

Advanced Standards

What healthcare professionals are required to take a suicide prevention training from the advanced standards list?

Starting July 2021, the following healthcare professions must take an advanced six-hour training for their second six-year continuing education requirement:

- psychologists
- marriage and family therapists
- mental health counselors
- advanced social workers
- independent clinical social workers
- social worker associates-advanced
- social worker associates-independent

Trainings that are approved for the advanced standards will also be required to meet the minimum standards and can be taken by other professionals needing to take a six-hour training. Specifics on the advanced standards will be posted later in 2022.

How do advanced standards trainings differ from trainings on the general Model List?

Advanced standards trainings must meet the minimum standards for training, plus, either have:

- additional content focused on suicide management, suicide care protocols, or effective treatments, **OR**
- content on a treatment modality shown to be effective in working with people who are suicidal. This includes, but is not limited to, dialectical behavior therapy, collaborative assessment and management of suicide risk, or cognitive behavior therapy-suicide prevention.

Additional criteria for advanced standards will be posted later in 2022.

My credentialing requires I take a training from the advanced standards list. When do I need to begin following this requirement?

Legislation states that the advanced standards requirement went into effect July 2021. If you have already taken one six-hour general training, then the next time you renew your license you will need to submit proof of completing an advanced standards training. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we do not currently have advanced standards trainings on the Model List. If you need to renew your license before we have advanced standards trainings available, you may take one of the other approved six-hour trainings on the Model List.

I am not required to take a training off the advanced standards list. Will I satisfy my requirement for training if I select an advanced standards training?

Yes, advanced standards trainings must also meet minimum standards, so they can be used to fulfill the general training requirement. If you are required to take a six-hour training and an advanced standards training looks interesting to you, we suggest you go ahead and take the advanced training.

Veterinarians

What are the suicide prevention training requirements for veterinarians and veterinary technicians?

Starting in July of 2022, veterinarians and veterinary technicians will be required to complete a specific suicide prevention training developed in collaboration with the University of Washington's Forefront Suicide Prevention Center of Excellence. We are excited to start offering this training, and we will post the information to the [Model List webpage](#) as soon as it is available.

How was the training requirement and course content for veterinarians determined?

The training requirements for veterinarians was developed in consultation with various veterinarian professional associations and the University of Washington's Forefront Suicide Prevention Center of Excellence. Please see [RCW 18.92.280](#) for further details.

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email civil.rights@doh.wa.gov.