

The Professional Development Program (PDP) is changing as of January 1, 2020, with the aim of giving you more flexibility in your professional development. BCREA and your board will support you through the transition with resources and information every step of the way. Below, we've answered some of the questions you may have about the changes and how they'll apply to you.

» General

1. Why the change from credits to hours of professional development?

This change simplifies the PDP. Instead of receiving credits based on the content or type of learning opportunity, you'll be recognized for hours of learning, in one-hour increments.

2. How many hours will I need to complete?

You will need to complete 18 hours of professional development in each PDP cycle, of which at least 12 hours are accredited learning. You can choose whether the rest of your professional development is accredited or self-directed.

3. Does this mean there'll no longer be Categories A, B and C?

Yes. Under the new PDP framework, there'll no longer be Categories A, B or C.

4. What's accredited versus self-directed professional development?

Accredited professional development is learning that has been accredited by BCREA or boards and that contributes to the fundamental skills, experience and knowledge required of REALTORS® throughout the province.

Self-directed professional development is learning that has not been accredited by BCREA or boards but enhances your professional practice. This allows you to be recognized for learning that meets your individual needs. It includes formal or informal learning opportunities, such as conferences, webinars, workshops, seminars and online learning, that enhance your professional practice and are verifiable and auditable. This means you must be able to show how it provides value to your clients, in addition to proof of completion.

5. Where can I find a list of accredited learning opportunities?

You can find a complete list of accredited learning opportunities [here](#). All learning opportunities from Category B and a few from Category C under the existing PDP have been accredited under the new PDP framework. Any previous PDP course or event that has not been accredited under the new framework could be put toward your self-directed PDP hours.

6. Why are self-directed and accredited learning opportunities a minimum of one hour long?

The one-hour minimum simplifies the reporting and tracking of your professional development hours and helps to ensure valuable learning opportunities. The one-hour minimum is also a change from the existing PDP, where accredited courses were a minimum of three credit, and allows for more learning opportunities to be accredited.

7. Can I fulfill all 18 required PDP hours with accredited learning opportunities?

Yes. You may fulfill all 18 PDP hours through accredited learning opportunities.

8. What's the difference between the Real Estate Council of BC's "regulatory education" and the Professional Development Program?

The Real Estate Council of British Columbia provides mandatory education, referred to as "regulatory education," that you must complete every two years to renew your real estate licence. This currently includes Legal Update and the Rules Changes: Agency and Disclosure Course.

The Professional Development Program includes the learning and education required for you to maintain your status as a REALTOR® and to maintain your membership with your real estate board.

9. What will happen to the PDP credits I've earned during my current licensing cycle?

Yes. Your board will convert the PDP credits you've earned within your current licensing cycle to PDP hours on January 1, 2020.

» Legal Update

10. If I take extra PDP hours within a licensing cycle, can they be carried into my next licensing cycle?

No. Extra PDP hours won't be carried over into your next licensing cycle.

11. If I take a PDP course twice during my licensing cycle, do I receive PDP hours each time?

No. A learning opportunity only counts towards your PDP hours the first time you take it in your licensing cycle.

12. Is Legal Update still required?

Yes. While relicensing education does not count toward your PDP hours, the Real Estate Council of British Columbia still requires the Legal Update course to renew your licence every two years.

13. Will Legal Update still count toward my PDP hours?

No. When you take a course to maintain your licence with the Real Estate Council of British Columbia, it won't count toward your PDP hours.

14. If I choose to take Legal Update annually, will the second time I take it within the same licensing cycle count toward my PDP hours?

Yes. If you choose to take Legal Update a second time within your licensing cycle—meaning you're not taking it as a requirement to maintain your licence—it would count toward your accredited PDP hours.

15. If I've already taken Legal Update within this licensing cycle, do I have to take it again under the new PDP?

No. If you've already completed Legal Update within this licensing cycle, you don't have to take it again before being relicensed, even if your next relicensing date occurs after the transition to the new PDP framework.

As part of the transition, if you've already completed Legal Update within this licensing cycle, or you do so before the end of 2019, you'll receive six PDP credits for Legal Update. Your board will convert these six credits into accredited PDP hours on January 1, 2020.

» Self-Directed



16. How do I know if a learning opportunity will count toward my self-directed PDP hours?

BCREA and the boards are developing guidelines and examples to support you in identifying self-directed learning opportunities. As a starting point, for a learning opportunity to count toward your self-directed PDP hours, it must be verifiable and auditable, enhance your professional practice and last at least one hour (see question 4).

17. My current licensing cycle ends before January 1, 2020. When do self-directed learning opportunities that I've taken count toward my PDP hour requirements?

Self-directed hours will not count toward your PDP requirements for your current licensing cycle, but will count toward your next licensing cycle, and can be earned after the new PDP framework comes into effect as of January 1, 2020.

18. My current licensing cycle ends after January 1, 2020. When do the self-directed learning opportunities that I've taken count toward my PDP hour requirements?

If your current licensing cycle ends after January 1, 2020 and you haven't fulfilled your PDP requirements by then, self-directed or accredited learning opportunities that you take on or after January 1, 2020 (and before your licence renewal date) count toward the six self-directed PDP hours required for your current licensing cycle.

19. If self-directed learning is tracked in hours, does that mean they have to be an hour long?

Yes. All professional development opportunities, including self-directed, must be a minimum of one hour long. When you submit PDP hours to your board, they must be in complete one-hour increments, rounded down to the nearest hour. For example, for a 3.5-hour self-directed learning opportunity, you will report three PDP hours. You won't be recognized for self-directed learning that takes less than an hour to complete.

20. Can I take all self-directed PDP hours in one format (e.g., conferences)?

Yes. You can take self-directed PDP hours in the format of your choosing, provided it's auditable, verifiable and enhances your professional practice.

21. Will in-brokerage training count toward self-directed PDP hours?

Yes. In-brokerage training can count toward self-directed PDP hours provided it's auditable, verifiable, enhances professional practice and lasts at least one hour. For in-brokerage training to count toward self-directed PDP hours, brokers will need to provide REALTORS® with documentation verifying completion. This documentation is being developed and will be available this fall.

22. Can in-brokerage training be accredited?

Most in-brokerage training will likely fall under self-directed learning. The accreditation process is rigorous and includes making the training available to all REALTORS® in BC. More information on accreditation will be available this fall.

23. Will there be a list of learning opportunities that count toward self-directed professional development hours?

Yes. BCREA and the boards will provide examples of self-directed learning opportunities to help you determine what'll count toward self-directed PDP hours.

» Reporting and Auditing

**24. How do I report and track my professional development hours?**

For accredited or self-directed learning carried out at your real estate board, your PDP hours will be recorded by your board. For accredited or self-directed learning taken from another provider or outside of your real estate board, you'll report your completed professional development hours to your real estate board. Reporting systems and standards are being developed.

25. Will my managing broker be responsible for reporting my professional development hours?

No. You will be responsible for reporting your own professional development hours to your board.

26. Does my managing broker need to authorize or approve my self-directed learning?

No. While your managing broker may be able to help you identify areas for learning, this is an opportunity for you to identify your own individual professional development needs.

27. Who'll audit our reported professional development hours?

Your board will be responsible for verifying and auditing your professional development hours.

28. What happens if my professional development hours are audited?

Guidelines for auditing PDP hours are being developed. There'll be a standard for auditing across the province, however, each board will develop their own auditing system.

» Third-Party Vendors

29. I've developed a learning opportunity for REALTORS® and would like to have it accredited. How do I do this?

Accredited learning opportunities must be hosted and carried out in collaboration with the boards or BCREA. As part of the accreditation process, external vendors will have to gain sponsorship and support for their learning opportunity from a board or BCREA. The guidelines and process for accreditation are being developed and there will be more information available this fall.

» More Information

30. Where do I go to find more information about the upcoming changes to the PDP and how they'll apply to me?

Your board is your first point of contact about the PDP. Staff at your board will be able to provide you with more information about the PDP, as well as information specific to your learner profile and PDP requirements. For additional support, you can email pdpeducation@bcrea.bc.ca.

For information on the transition to the new PDP framework, visit the **PDP transition** web page. Additional information and resources will be added to this page over the coming months, as we approach the January 1, 2020 transition date.