

Update to the Minimum Standards IC&RC Peer Recovery (PR) Credential

FAQ

1. **What will be different in the updated standards?**

The Minimum Standards have been updated to include the new Harm Reduction domain which adds **6 required education hours**. To maintain the total of **46** required education hours, the minimum requirement of hours specific to the domains of Advocacy, Mentoring/Education, and Recovery/Wellness Support have been **reduced from 10 hours to 8 hours** specific to each domain.

2. **What will stay the same?**

The total education requirement remains **46** hours, including **16 hours in Ethical Responsibility**.

3. **Why is the update being done?**

This update aligns the PR Minimum Standards with the content domains of the IC&RC PR examination by adding education requirements for the Harm Reduction domain. It also helps clarify compliance with the Minimum Standards and supports alignment of training programs with the examination content.

4. **Our Board already meets the current Minimum Standards for PR. What does this change mean for us?**

If your Board currently meets the PR Minimum Standards, it already satisfies the updated requirements for the Advocacy, Mentoring/Education, Recovery/Wellness Support, and Ethical Responsibility domains. Your Board may continue requiring 10 hours in those domains or reduce the requirement to 8 hours. **To comply with the updated Minimum Standards, your Board must add 6 education hours in the Harm Reduction domain.**

5. **When can I expect the Minimum Standards to change again?**

The updated Minimum Standards will remain in effect until they are revised through a future PR Job Analysis. At this time, no date has been established for the next PR Job Analysis.

6. How did IC&RC decide on these changes?

IC&RC consulted with certified Subject Matter Experts, including the PR Co-leads on the IC&RC Credentialing Committee, to determine the minimum education hours required for the *Harm Reduction* domain.

7. When is this change effective?

The updated Minimum Standards become **effective January 1, 2027**.

8. What does my Member Board have to do and when?

IC&RC recognizes that changing your standards may take some time and effort to implement. To maintain compliance with reciprocity, Boards are requested to have this change implemented beginning **January 1, 2027**, for new applicants and renewals. This includes updating materials (e.g., website, PDFs) pertaining to the Board's reciprocal PR credential with information on the new standard.

9. What does this change mean for professionals who already hold the reciprocal-level PR credential?

Professionals who earned the reciprocal-level PR credential *before* January 1, 2027, will **not** be required to meet these additional standards unless they apply for reciprocity *after* January 1, 2027. Starting January 1, 2027, professionals applying for reciprocity will need to have met these updated Minimum Standards.

10. What does this mean for new professionals applying for the reciprocal-level PR credential?

Starting January 1, 2027, new applicants for the reciprocal credential will need to meet these updated Minimum Standards. Professionals credentialed between now and January 1, 2027, will **not** be required to meet these additional standards unless they apply for reciprocity after January 1, 2027.

IC&RC recommends that Boards communicate this impending change to the standards of their reciprocal PR credential in a timely manner so that professionals may consider if they wish to apply *prior* to January 1, 2027.

11. Does this change have any effect on the current PR exam?

No. The PR exam currently includes the Harm Reduction content domain so the education hours update will align the PR minimum standards with the PR exam.

12. My Board has decided to use a different phrase than “Harm Reduction”? Will this affect our compliance with the Minimum Standards?

No. IC&RC understands that some Boards have chosen to use different terminology based on state guidance. When reviewing a Board's standards for compliance, IC&RC will consider the content covered within the required six hours, rather than the title of the domain. Member Boards may be asked to provide documentation demonstrating the domain content is equivalent to the Harm Reduction domain content.

13. Where do I find the topics covered in the Harm Reduction domain?

Topics covered in the Harm Reduction content domain are listed in the [Peer Recovery \(PR\) Exam Candidate Guide](#).

14. What if I’m unsure what my next steps are, or if my Board needs more time to come into compliance with this change?

Reach out to us! We are here to help with this transition. Please contact the following IC&RC staff directly with questions relating to:

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