

# State of Washington Health Profession Mandatory Suicide Prevention Training

## Tools and Links

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Legislation ([RCW 43.70.442](#)) requires that the health professions listed below take a suicide prevention course that meets their hour and content requirement before the end of the next full continuing education reporting period. Implementation dates vary by profession. After identifying the suicide prevention training requirements for a profession, [find courses on the Model List](#).

For specific questions about your own suicide training requirements or whether a particular training is appropriate for your health profession, please contact the program manager or executive director of your profession’s board or commission.

## People in the following professions must complete suicide prevention training:

Profession	Hours of Training and Frequency	Core Training Components and Content
<p><a href="#">Social workers</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced social workers</li> <li>• Advanced social worker associates</li> <li>• Independent clinical social workers</li> <li>• Independent clinical social worker associates</li> </ul> <p>* began January 1, 2014</p>	<p>Six hours at least once every six years</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suicide assessment, treatment and management</li> <li>• Imminent harm via lethal means or self-injurious behaviors</li> <li>• Content on veterans</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#">Certified counselors</a>   <a href="#">certified advisers</a></p> <p>* began January 1, 2014</p>	<p>Three hours every six years</p>	<p>Suicide screening and referral</p>

<p><u>Chemical dependence professionals</u> * began January 1, 2014</p>	Three hours every six years	Suicide screening and referral
<p><u>Chiropractors</u> * began January 1, 2016</p>	Three hours one time	Suicide screening and referral
<p><u>Dentists</u> * beginning August 1, 2020</p>	Three hours one time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suicide screening and referral</li> <li>Assessment of issues related to imminent harm via lethal means</li> </ul>
<p><u>Dental hygienists</u> * beginning August 1, 2020</p>	Three hours one time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suicide screening and referral</li> </ul>
<p><u>Licensed mental health professionals</u> * began January 1, 2014</p>	Six hours at least once every six years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suicide assessment, treatment and management</li> <li>• Imminent harm via lethal means or self-injurious behaviors</li> <li>• Content on veterans</li> </ul>
<p><u>Licensed practical nurses (LPN), registered nurses (RN) and advanced registered nurse practitioners (ARNP)</u> - certified registered nurse anesthetists are exempt  * began January 1, 2016</p>	Six hours one time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suicide assessment, treatment and management</li> <li>• Imminent harm via lethal means or self-injurious behaviors</li> <li>• Content on veterans</li> </ul>
<p><u>Marriage and family therapists</u> * began January 1, 2014</p>	Six hours at least once every six years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suicide assessment, treatment and management</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Imminent harm via lethal means or self-injurious behaviors</li> <li>• Content on veterans</li> </ul>
<p><u>Naturopaths</u> * began January 1, 2016</p>	Six hours one time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suicide assessment, treatment and management</li> <li>• Imminent harm via lethal means or self-injurious behaviors</li> <li>• Content on veterans</li> </ul>
<p><u>Occupational therapists and assistants</u> * began January 1, 2014</p>	Three hours at least once every six years	Suicide screening and referral
<p><u>Osteopathic physicians and surgeons</u> - holders of a postgraduate training license issued under <a href="#">RCW 18.57.035</a> are exempt * began January 1, 2016</p>	Six hours one time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suicide assessment, treatment and management</li> <li>• Imminent harm via lethal means or self-injurious behaviors</li> <li>• Content on veterans</li> </ul>
<p><u>Osteopathic physician assistants</u> * began January 1, 2016</p>	Six hours one time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suicide assessment, treatment and management</li> <li>• Imminent harm via lethal means or self-injurious behaviors</li> <li>• Content on veterans</li> </ul>
<p><u>Pharmacists</u> * began January 1, 2017</p>	Three hours one time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suicide screening and referral</li> <li>• Assessment of issues related to imminent harm via lethal means</li> </ul>
<p><u>Physicians</u> -residents holding a limited license issued under <a href="#">RCW 18.71.095</a> (3) are exempt</p>	Six hours one time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suicide assessment, treatment and management</li> </ul>

<p>* began January 1, 2016</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Imminent harm via lethal means or self-injurious behaviors</li> <li>• Content on veterans</li> </ul>
<p><u>Physician assistants</u> * began January 1, 2016</p>	<p>Six hours one time</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suicide assessment, treatment and management</li> <li>• Imminent harm via lethal means or self-injurious behaviors</li> <li>• Content on veterans</li> </ul>
<p><u>Physical therapists and assistants</u> * began January 1, 2016</p>	<p>Three hours one time</p>	<p>Suicide screening and referral</p>
<p><u>Psychologists</u> * began January 1, 2014</p>	<p>Six hours at least once every six years</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suicide assessment, treatment and management</li> <li>• Imminent harm via lethal means or self-injurious behaviors</li> <li>• Content on veterans</li> </ul>
<p><u>Retired active license</u> for one of these professions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Naturopaths</li> <li>• LPNs, RNs, or ARNPs (certified registered nurse anesthetists are exempt)</li> <li>• Osteopathic physicians and surgeons (other than a holder of a postgraduate osteopathic medicine and surgery license)</li> <li>• Osteopathic physician assistants</li> <li>• Physician assistants</li> </ul>	<p>Six hours one time</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suicide assessment, treatment and management</li> <li>• Imminent harm via lethal means or self-injurious behaviors</li> <li>• Content on veterans</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physicians (other than a resident holding a limited license)</li> </ul> <p>* began January 1, 2016</p>		
<p>Retired active license as a <u>dentist</u></p> <p>* begins August 1, 2020</p>	<p>Three hours one time</p>	<p>Assessment of issues related to imminent harm via lethal means</p>