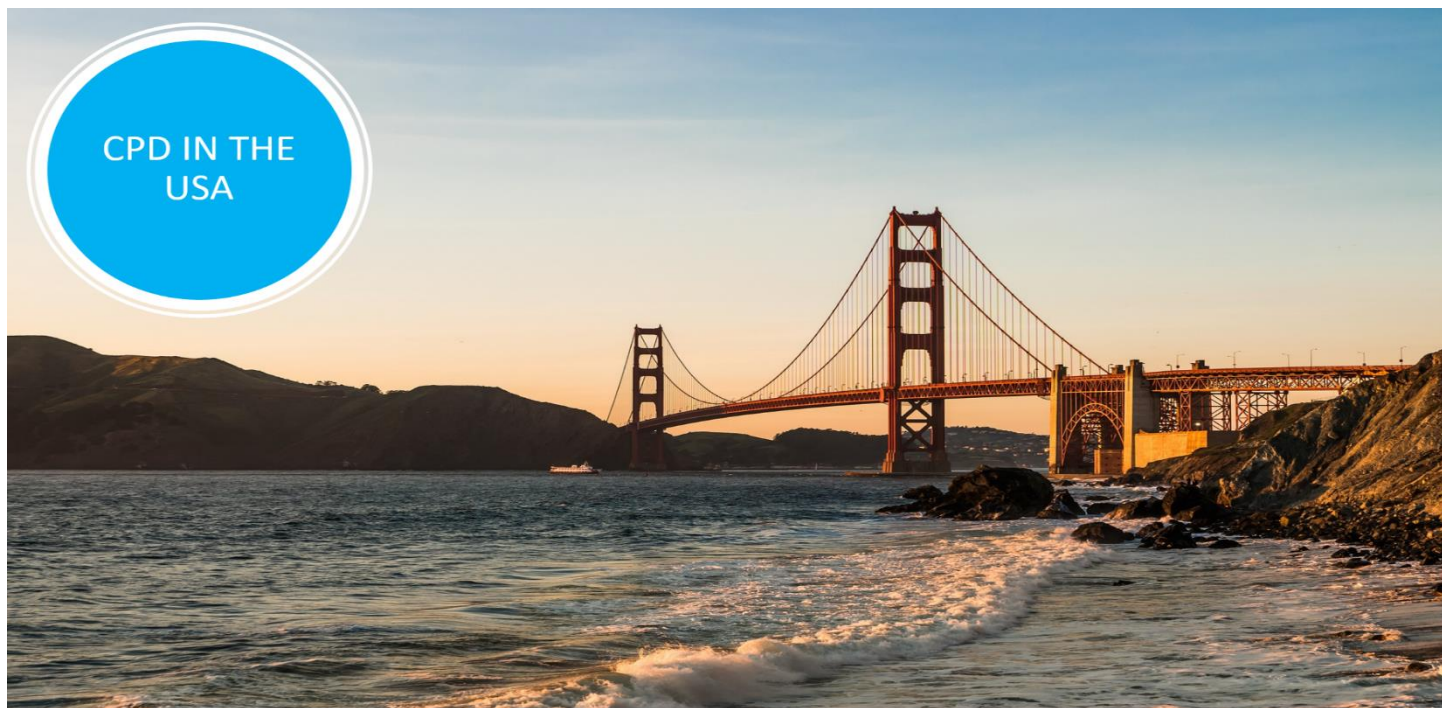


CPD IN THE USA



The CPD Standards Office is a unique organisation and was founded with the vision of understanding and enabling positive and successful CPD and learning experiences. As a highly specialised expert team, our university led research has equipped us with extensive expertise on all things CPD.

Between the work of the Professional Development Consortium and the CPD Standards Office dual CPD research and accreditation activities sharpen our knowledge and expertise. This enables us to work with individual coaches, training providers, employers, and ‘membership organisation’s as a collaborative CPD network & community.

This factsheet provides advice and guidance on CPD within the USA and delivering CPD accredited activities globally.

CPD in the USA

Within the United States of America slightly different language is used to describe the practice of CPD.

Commonly known instead as ‘CE’ Continuing Education, the term is regularly adjusted to describe different disciplines. For example, CLE - Continuing Legal Education, CME - Continuing Medical Education, or CPD - Continuing Professional Education.

Despite different terminologies, it is important to remember that **CPD and CE are the same thing** - simply a formal approach to lifelong learning, whereby individuals record training and learning undertaken within the work place that keeps their professional qualifications up to date.

Similar to the UK, there are stringent requirements for professionals to undertake CE within different sectors, with over 4000 professional bodies, institutes and regulators present across all 50 states.



Compared to the UK, CE is more complex in the USA as each of the 50 states have their own legislation, and corresponding CE requirements, in place for ‘regulated sectors’ such as in medicine, accountancy, law or construction. For example, lawyers in Alaska have to undertake 4 hours of CPD/CE a year, whereas lawyers in Ohio have to undertake 24 hours of CPD/CE over 2 years.

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In addition to state regulation, there are also national professional bodies and regulators in place for professions such as teaching or banking, which place further compliance-based policy / requirements on professionals in these sectors.

The CPD Standards Office has various providers who are either based, or headquartered, within the USA. These include Pinnacle Performance, Google and Columbia Business School in New York.

In addition, there are a growing number of CPD Standards accredited providers based in a wide range of countries who deliver into the USA. These providers span all continents and cover a range of skills and knowledge updates - from pharmaceutical events, short courses on management and leadership skills, half day seminars on health and safety, to online learning such as e: learning, podcasts or webinars - all these organisations have been recognised as formal providers of education that is appropriate for use within a CPD or CE record.

Guidance on using CPD Standards accredited logos and CPD certificates

The CPD Standards Office accreditation services support all CE, CLE and CME policies associated to US professional bodies, regulators and societies.

As the English language describing CPD and or CE is “interchangeable”, therefore so are the attendance certificates and logos, and this is a benefit for providers delivering in this region:

For example, a UK doctor and a US doctor attending the same CPD Standards accredited event in Chicago could use the CPD Certificate within their respective CPD and CE records in the UK and the USA.

Hence CPD Standards Office accredited CPD activities, and their corresponding certificates, are accepted by the



USA, and other international, professional bodies as appropriate for use within a professionals CPD or CE record. Dependent on the professional body and sector, will depend on exact CPD policy and requirements, but broadly an individual is expected to undertake a set number of CPD/CE hours per annum. These are expected to be sourced from a variety of training and learning situations, and the CPD Standards CPD certificates are generally used within the ‘independently’ sought section of a CPD / CE record.

*Please note that CPD policies vary amongst different professional bodies, and there may be a variation on the language used, or the requirements for recording CPD / CE activities. It is always worth checking directly with a specific professional body if there are queries on recording CPD / CE activities. *

What the CPD Standards Office does not do...

It is important to make clear that the CPDSO does not issue USA CEU's (Continuing Education Units or Credits).

Commonly known as CEU's these are a form of credits that can be applied to short courses. Gaining a number of CEU's means that they have a formal educational value, in that they can count towards an individual's

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college or university degree within the USA. As the university system is different in America, it is possible to achieve a proportion of a degree from undertaking educational activities from providers other than the university awarding the degree. Providers issuing CEU's have been formally accredited by the **International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET)**.

We hope you have found this factsheet helpful.

Please see www.cpdstandards.com for more information on our accreditation services or call **0203 745 6463** for further advice.

Don't just take our word for it...

“Having our solutions assessed and reviewed by The CPD Standards Office was critical to us. As the leader in our space, we continuously ensure that the training we offer is leading-edge. Most importantly, an independent review from a credible body such as the CPDSO gives our customers and their learners the quality assurance they very often require internally or for their own CPD records.”

Rebecca Muenger, Marketing Director, Rosetta Stone

“Thanks very much for all you have done to enable us to do better in the Middle East. The accredited international knowledge and the Accredited CPD certificates are sought after!”

Jacqueline Purcell, Director, Jasper Alliance