

FAQ for Ethics – Equity Credit

Frequently asked questions on the new credit requirement in the topic of equity, inclusion, and the mitigation of both implicit and explicit bias in the legal profession and the practice of law

What is the new “Equity...” credit?

“Equity...” credit is for activities in the topic of equity, inclusion, and the mitigation of both implicit and explicit bias in the legal profession and the practice of law.

Will the “Equity...” credit requirement apply to those in the 2020-2022 reporting period?

No, those in the 2020-2022 reporting period will not need to report the new ethics “equity...” requirement. The MCLE Board will track the new “equity...” credit—as outlined in APR 11(c)(1)(ii) and APR 11(f)(2)— starting with the 2023-2025 MCLE reporting period. Licensed legal professionals in the 2023-2025 and subsequent MCLE reporting periods will be required to report and certify fulfillment of the “equity...” credit requirement. See table below for more information.

Reporting Group	Reporting Period	Ethics - Equity Credit Requirement
1	2020-2022	Not Required
2	2022-2023	Not Required
3	2022-2024	Not Required
1	2023-2025*	Required
2	2024-2026*	Required
3	2025-2027*	Required

*All subsequent reporting periods will require this new ethics – equity credit

Can a CLE presented before September 1, 2022 qualify for the new “equity...” credit?

No, the amendment to the ethics requirement goes into effect on September 1, 2022. Any courses held before the implementation date will be accredited under the rules in place at that time. For example, a course held on 8/1/2022 that focuses on diversity and antibias with respect to the practice of law or the legal system will be accredited as ethics, however will not meet the new “equity...” credit requirement.



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How will credits carryover for the new “equity...” credit?

A new “equity...” credit must be earned in each reporting period. Any “equity...” credit earned in excess of the reporting period requirement may be carried over as general ethics credit in accordance with APR 11(c)(7), however will not fulfill the “equity...” requirement for the next reporting period.

“Equity...” credit in addition to the six ethics credits?

No, one of the six ethics credits must be on the “Equity...” topic. Legal professionals will not be compliant with the ethics requirement until they have at least one “Equity...” credit, even if they have six ethics general credits.

