

Doula Recertification

INFO BOOKLET



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RECERTIFICATION

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A note from Stef & Julia

As professionals dedicated to excellence and impactful care, we understand that learning is a continuous journey and we're so happy to invest heavily each month in newsletters, webinars, new courses, program updates and more to serve you as our alumni. This booklet will share important reminders about staying relevant, effective, and confident in our roles: recertification.

When Doula School became an approved vocational school years ago, we undertook that for the benefit of our students. As we expand internationally and doulas gain coverage through Medicaid in the United States, we're reinforced in our beliefs of having a rigorous training program, which includes recertification.

We're happy to introduce a more formal - but SIMPLE - way for us to track and support alumni with this process. This guide will explain all you need to know!



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Why is Recertification Important?

There has long been debate about many aspects of our profession, credentialing in general and of course the professional aspects of being a “profession” at all! As leaders who’ve been working in the field for over 20 years we’ve seen a LOT of change. Similar to modern midwifery, the doula profession has experienced a conflicting balance between wanting the work to be accessible for families but also wanting to maintain independence from the colonial and capitalistic aspects that formal regulation brings.

Ultimately it always calls for a trade-off or balance of priorities, needs and desires. As we look to the United States and see more and more states covering doula services through Medicaid, the future is pretty clear: our profession is trending in the direction of expansion. This means more doulas and more coverage, and more structure.

What is Recertification?

Recertification is a way to ensure that our doulas and educators are maintaining their high level of knowledge and skills by showing proof of continuing education, even after their program is complete.



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Why do we ask you to recertify?

We want to ensure that our doulas and educators are viewed as leaders in their field, and having organization-wide policies that show that our alumni are regularly continuing their education allows us to demonstrate our high standards. This policy also keeps us on par with other professions, such as Registered Nurses, Massage Therapists, Paramedics and Social Workers, which will allow us to keep moving the profession forward in recognition of the value of our work.

How often do I need to recertify?

Similar to most birthwork organizations that offer credentials, we ask that you recertify every 3 years. You will receive notification when you are approaching your recertification deadline. If you graduated between January 1st and June 30th, your deadline will be June 30th of your recertification year. If your graduation date was between July 1st and December 31st, your deadline will be December 31st of your recertification year.

What if I don't want to recertify?

If you don't want to recertify then don't! Quite simply there is nothing more 'doula-y' than doing what you want (after all, isn't that what we help all our clients to do?). If you no longer feel value in certification or recertification then ignore our reminder emails and carry on!



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What does Recertification Entail?

Trust us when we say we want this to be EASY. No one wants a complicated and convoluted recertification process. We will require only 2 things for recertification: 15 CEUs and an up-to-date CPR/First Aid.

THERE WILL BE NO FEE FOR RECERTIFICATION AT THIS TIME.

Recertification Requirements

- Complete 15 Continuing Education Units (CEU) related to your work as a doula over the previous recertification period
- Maintain current First Aid/CPR training



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Continuing Education

Suggested Topics for Continuing Education:

- Lactation
- Equity & Inclusion
- Newborn care and support
- Surrogacy Support
- Comfort Measures
- Perinatal Mental Health
- Adult Education
- Business Development
- Birth Anatomy/Physiology

Please note that only courses that are within the scope of practice of a doula will be eligible. For example a course on interpreting fetal heart tones wouldn't qualify as that skill is outside the scope of practice of a doula.

Pre-approved CEU providers:

You can find an up to date list of pre-approved CEU providers on our website.

If you are interested in a program that is not pre-approved, you can submit a request for [Continuing Education Unit Approval](#).



How Can I Get CEUs?

Have you noticed that Doula School offers our alumni FREE monthly webinars? Each webinar is worth 1 CEU and they are hosted almost every month of the year!

We also launch new courses each year, giving you the chance to learn a new skill AND gain valuable CEUs. And of course you're always welcome to take courses from other organizations that offer something you're wanting to learn about. We will also have other simple ways to get CEUs at no cost.

Every webinar is worth 1 CEU



Approved alternatives to completing CEUs

- Becoming certified in another DSI certification*
- DSI international retreat*
- Writing a blog post/article which was published on our site or newsletter (1 CEUs)
- Be a guest speaker for DSI training or webinar (1 CEUs)
- DSI Grand Rounds (1 CEU for attending + 1 CEU for presenting)

*fulfills full CEU recertification requirement



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Why does Recertification Matter?

Staying Current with Industry Standards

The field we work in is dynamic and continually evolving. Recertification ensures you are up-to-date with the latest research, best practices, and trends. This not only elevates your own practice but also upholds the standards doula clients expect and deserve.

Strengthening Your Professional Skills

Recertification often involves engaging in advanced education, workshops, and reflective practice. These opportunities allow you to deepen your knowledge and refine your skills, ultimately making you a more effective and informed practitioner.

Building Credibility and Trust

Clients, peers, and employers value those who demonstrate a commitment to excellence and continued education. Recertification reflects your dedication and passion for ongoing improvement, reinforcing your credibility within the community.



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Networking and Community Growth

Recertification often provides an avenue to reconnect with peers, share insights, and grow as part of a collective. This network is invaluable for support, growth, and even collaborating on new initiatives.

Adapting to Emerging Needs

As professionals, we serve a diverse range of needs that may evolve over time. Recertification helps us stay informed and prepared to meet these needs with competence and empathy.

Renewing Your Commitment to Excellence

Recertification is more than fulfilling a requirement; it is a reaffirmation of our shared commitment to providing the highest quality care and expertise to clients. We are here to support you every step of the way, with resources, guidance, and opportunities to make this process enriching and rewarding.



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Frequently Asked Questions

How will I know when to recertify?

Your graduation date will be written on your certificate as well as your Letter of Completion. Your recertification deadline will be 3 years after your graduation, either June 30th (if you graduated between January and June), or December 31st (if you graduated between July and December). We will also be sending out emails, to notify you of your approaching recertification deadline, however this email may find its way to your promotions or spam folders. If you are unsure, you can email us and we can confirm your deadline. Please also note that if you unsubscribe to our newsletters you won't receive alumni notifications, including your recertification notices.

Is there a fee to recertify with Doula School?

No! We know that there are a lot of expenses to maintain your skills and knowledge and we don't want this process to be another. We do not have plans currently to charge for this process.

What happens if I miss my recertification deadline?

Not a problem! We provide you with a grace period of 6 months. All you need to do is purchase a Recertification Extension fee of \$25



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If you're requesting recertification between 6-12 months after your deadline, you must complete an additional 5 Continuing Education Units along with purchasing the Recertification Extension fee.

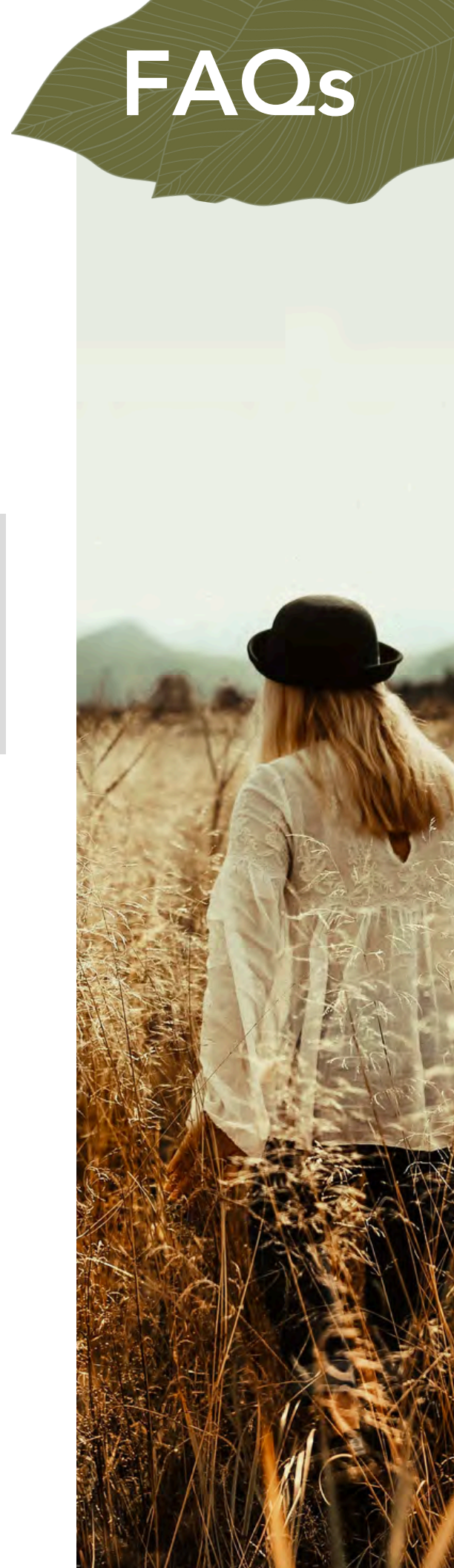
If you have passed your recertification deadline by over 1 year, we ask that you complete the Cross Certification program to recertify.

Please note that a Recertification Extension does not extend your next recertification deadline. You will be expected to recertify 3 years after your original deadline date.

Ready to go?



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Stay in Touch



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