

ACCREDITED ACH PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

(As Approved January 7, 2015)

General Guidelines: **In order to retain AAP status, an AAP must earn sixty (60) continuing education credits within the five-year accreditation period, with no more than twenty (20) credits earned in any one year.**

The reporting year for AAP renewal credits is January 1 to December 31. AAP continuing education credits must be reported annually. Submissions of all continuing education reporting forms and required fees must be received by NACHA no later than March 31 of the calendar year immediately following the year in which continuing education credits were earned. AAPs are not required to submit supporting documentation with the continuing education credit reporting form. However, each AAP must maintain records documenting AAP continuing education credit activity for three years following the date reported. An audit of AAP renewal credits is conducted annually by NACHA, and candidates who are audited will be required to submit documentation for continuing education credits filed with NACHA. Examples of acceptable documentation include copies of registration forms or programs for seminars and training sessions, copies of articles written, etc. Any credits that cannot be documented by the AAP during the audit process will be disqualified. NACHA will send an annual Statement of Credits summarizing continuing education credit activity each spring. Each continuing education credit reporting form must be signed by the AAP and must be accompanied by the appropriate processing fee.

Late Filing Policy: AAPs who miss the March 31 filing deadline for submitting their continuing education credits may submit their credits during the late filing period of April 1 through April 30. Such submissions must include the regular filing fee AND a late filing fee of \$50. Any credits received by NACHA after the April 30 late filing deadline will not be eligible for credit.

POLICIES FOR EARNING CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS: Only educational activities covering ACH and related payments issues are eligible for AAP renewal credits. Eligible topic areas are covered in the AAP Handbook and include the following six general ACH topic areas (NOTE: Should questions arise during data entry regarding credits submitted, NACHA will contact applicants for clarification):

General Payment Overview/ Comparative Payment Systems	Marketing & Products	Risk Management	Rules & Regulations	Operational Process/Flow	Technical Standards/Formats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The ACH Network ➤ Check Processing ➤ Wire Transfer Payments ➤ Card Payments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ACH Marketing Strategies ➤ ACH Products and Applications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Direct Deposit ▪ Direct Payment ▪ Point-Of-Sale ▪ Corporate-to-Corporate Payments/Financial EDI ▪ Cash Concentration/ Disbursement ▪ Emerging Payments Applications ▪ Electronic Check Applications ▪ Electronic Benefits Transfer ▪ Cross-Border Payments ▪ Internet-based payment services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ACH Risk Identification ➤ ACH Risk Control ➤ Contingency Planning ➤ Audit Issues ➤ Data Security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ NACHA Operating Rules ➤ NACHA Operating Guidelines ➤ Federal Government ACH Payments ➤ Federal and State Regulations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regulation E ▪ Uniform Commercial Code Article 4A ▪ Federal Reserve Bank Operating Circulars ▪ Office of the Comptroller of the Currency Banking Circular 235 ▪ Regulation D ▪ Regulation CC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Origination ➤ Receipt ➤ Settlement ➤ Exception Processing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACH Returns ▪ Rejected Entries ▪ Notifications of Change ▪ Reversals ▪ Reclamations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ File Exchange Specifications ➤ Record Format Specifications ➤ Specifications for Data Acceptance ➤ Minimum Description Standards ➤ Return Entries ➤ Notifications of Change ➤ Acknowledgment Entries ➤ Rule Compliance Audit Requirements ➤ Compensation Rules ➤ Arbitration Procedures

Formula for calculating credits:

1 renewal credit is awarded for each 50 minutes involved in one of the qualifying education programs described on page 2. Example: You participate in an hour and a half teleseminar. The total number of minutes is 90. You divide the 90 minutes by 50, which equals 1.8 credits (partial credits are accepted providing they are at least .1).

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS: COMPLETED CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT REPORTING FORMS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE FOLLOWING REPORTING YEAR PROCESSING FEE:

- Member - \$95/reporting year
- Non-Member - \$160/reporting year
- \$50 Late Filing Fee (must accompany all submissions between April 1 – April 30)

Note: A reporting year is the calendar year during which continuing education credits were earned.

Completed forms and processing fees submitted via check should be forwarded to: NACHA – The Electronic Payments Association, 2550 Wasser Terrace, Ste. 400, Herndon, VA 20171 or faxed to our secured fax line, 703-713-1641

TYPES OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS ELIGIBLE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT: Below is a description of the types of educational programs eligible for continuing education credits and the number of credits which may be earned from each type of program. Continuing education programs do not need to be approved by NACHA provided that they fall within the categories of eligible topic areas as defined on the previous page.

Professional Seminars/Training	Teaching (AAP-Related Topics)	Publishing Articles/Books/Papers	Volunteer Service	Professional Service/Membership
<p>1 renewal credit is awarded for each 50-minute seminar or training session. A maximum of twenty (20) credits may be earned in this category per renewal year.</p> <p>Examples of eligible seminars include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NACHA Conferences • The Payments Institute • Regional Payments Association Training Sessions & Conferences • Association for Financial Professionals Conferences (National and Local) • Federal Reserve Bank/Treasury Training Seminars • Financial Institution-Sponsored Training • Related Industry Conferences/Courses (i.e., ATM Network Conferences, Vendor Conferences, American Payroll Association Conferences, etc.) • Self-Study programs (A maximum of 10 credits may be earned using Self-Study programs per renewal year). <p>Examples of Ineligible Seminars/Training Include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Network Software Training - IRS Compliance Training - Health Savings/Flexible Spending Account Training - IRA Training - Check Ordering Training - Client Training - Exhibitor/Booth Duty - Educational sessions presented at Payments Innovation Alliance meetings. <p>Self-Study Program Guidelines:</p> <p>A sponsor letter validating/attesting to completion of the program (signed by the sponsoring organization and participant's supervisor) must be generated and saved by the participant for his/her records in the event of an audit</p> <p>Examples of Self-Study Programs include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Non-Instructor lead Webinars ▪ Web-Based Learning Systems ▪ Video Learning Systems <p>Examples of Ineligible Self-Study Programs include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reading books ▪ Informal discussion groups 	<p>2 renewal credits are awarded for each 50 minute seminar or training session.</p> <p>A maximum of sixteen credits may be earned in this category per renewal year.</p> <p>NOTE: One-on-one training of in-house staff does not qualify. Sessions must be structured in a formal environment and include formal agenda, supporting documentation and handouts. Minimum size for each training session/seminar is 3 attendees (not including instructor).</p> <p>Also, training of new hires to enable them to perform the position they are hired to perform does not qualify.</p>	<p>A maximum of ten credits may be earned in this category per renewal year.</p> <p>1 renewal credit is awarded for each 500 words published</p> <p>Published articles/books/papers must not be solely for in-house use.</p>	<p>A maximum of ten credits may be earned in this category per renewal year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ NACHA and RPA Committees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>NACHA Committees*</u> (6 renewal credits are awarded per year, per group for active participation, to a maximum of ten credits per renewal year) for the Blue Ribbon Panel, Rules & Operations Committee, Rules Enforcement Panel, NACHA Task Forces (RMAG, CMAG, GRAG); NACHA Compliance & Operations Standing Rules Group, Risk & Quality Standing Rules Group, and Product Innovation Standing Rules Group ▪ <u>RPA Committees*</u> (3 renewal credits are awarded per year for active participation, to a maximum of six credits per renewal year) for Rules & Operations Committees, Risk Mgmt. Committees, Rules & Technology Committee, Long Range Planning Committee, AAP Faculty Committee, Association Services Committee ▪ <u>Federal Reserve Taskforces*</u> (3 renewal credits are awarded per year for active participation, to a maximum of six credits per renewal year) for Secure Payments Taskforce, Faster Payments Taskforce <p>*Note: Participation on the following committees is not eligible: Conference Planning, Education, and Business. Also, membership in the Executive Committee of either NACHA's BoD or the RPA BoD does <u>not</u> qualify for credit.</p> <p><u>NACHA and RPA Board of Directors</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>NACHA Board of Directors</u> (6 renewal credits are awarded per year) ▪ <u>RPA Board of Directors</u> (2 renewal credits are awarded per meeting, to a maximum of six credits per renewal year) ▪ <u>NACHA AAP Buddy Program</u> 1 renewal credit per year if enrolled in program by August 1 and active contact 	<p>A maximum of ten continuing education credits may be earned in this category per year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ <u>Payments Innovation Alliance</u> – 4 credits per meeting for attendance/participation at Alliance Meetings and conference calls ➢ <u>NACHA Affiliate Program</u> – 4 credits per Quarterly Rules Update conference calls <p>NOTE: Educational sessions attended at Payments Innovation Alliance meetings may not be submitted for additional credits under the Professional Seminars/Training category.</p>