

FAQs on Professional Development

1. What is PCH?

Ans. The term PCH refers to Programme Credit Hours. Credit Hours represent attendance by a member at approved learning programmes.

2. How many PCH are to be obtained by a member?

Ans. The Council of the Institute at its 200th Meeting held at New Delhi on March 18, 2011 decided that the minimum number of credit hours to be obtained by each member of the Institute upto March 31, 2014 would be as under:

	Member's below the age of 60 years		Member's above the age of 60 years	
	Members in Employment	Members in Practice	Members in Employment	Members in Practice
PCH in each year	10	15	5	8
PCH in a block of 3 years	35	50	18	25
<i>Certificate of Practice / Employment taken during</i>	Members in Employment	Members in Practice	Members in Employment	Members in Practice
01 Apr., 2011 to 30 Sep., 2011	35	50	18	25
01 Oct., 2011 to 31 Mar., 2012	20	30	10	15
01 Apr., 2012 to 30 Sep., 2012	20	30	10	15
01 Oct., 2012 to 31 Mar., 2013	10	15	5	8
01 Apr., 2013 to 30 Sep., 2013	10	15	5	8
After 01 Oct., 2013	0	0	0	0

3. How do I get PCH?

Ans. A member of the Institute is granted PCH for attending approved learning programmes or for carrying out unstructured learning activities.

4. What is approved learning program?

Ans. Approved Learning Program means any Professional Development Program, Continuing Education Program, Participative Certificate Program of ICSI. Programmes organised through electronic / distance mode or any other program, seminar or study circle meeting organised by the Council, Regional Council, Chapter of the Institute, and programmes organised jointly with professional bodies or Chambers of Commerce.

5. What is the manner of calculation of Programme Credit Hours?

Ans. No Program Credit Hours will be awarded for any learning program whose duration is less than 1 hour.

The basis of calculation of Program Credit Hours will be as under:

No. of hours of Learning Program attended by the member	Program Credit Hours (PCH)
Beyond 1 hour and upto 2 hours	1
Beyond 2 hours and upto 4 hours in a single day	2
Beyond 4 hours in a single day	4
Program spanning 1 ½ days	6
Program spanning 2days	8
Program spanning 2 ½ days and above	10

6. What are unstructured learning activities?

Ans. The members may be granted Programme Credit Hours under the Guidelines for Compulsory Attendance of Professional Development Programmes by the Members for undertaking any of the following unstructured learning activities:

1. Web based learning including elearning on the production of Certificate.
2. Publication of article in a journal of repute other than the Chartered Secretary Journal.
3. Publication of book(s).
4. Acting as Guide / Supervisor for M.Phil. / LL.M. / Ph.D.
7. Suggestions on Questionnaires / Consultative Papers / Exposure Draft, etc. sought by the Institute.
8. Reviewing of Articles / Guideline Answers / Study Material and other publications of the Institute.

9. Publication of Research findings / Studies on the areas relevant to Corporate Sector, Capital Markets and Professional interest.
10. Publication of articles of professional interest in national dailies.
11. Visit to foreign countries as part of government delegation.
12. Acting as visiting faculty or guest faculty at the various Universities / Management Institutions / Institutions of National importance.

13. Where do I find the details of programmes being organised by the ICSI for its members?

Ans. The details of programmes organised by the ICSI are available on the ICSI website, CS Updates and the Chartered Secretary Journal. For programmes organised by the Regional Councils and Chapters of the Institute, members may contact the respective Regional Council / Chapter offices or refer to their newsletters.

14. What is the current block?

Ans. The current block of three years is from April 01, 2011 to March 31, 2014.

15. What are the consequences if I do not obtain the mandatory Programme Credit Hours within the stipulated time?

Ans. A member who fails to obtain the mandatory Programme Credit Hours during the stipulated period would be liable to disciplinary action for non-compliance with the Guidelines issued by the Council under the provisions of the Company Secretaries Act, 1980 and the CS Regulations.

16. What is the fee for attending the Professional Development Programmes?

Ans. The Fee for each programme organised by the Institute or its Regional Councils and Chapters is disclosed in the programme announcement.

17. Where can I find the information of the Programme Credit Hours obtained by me till date?

Ans. The Institute does not issue physical certificate for Programme Credit Hours, a members may check the status of Programme Credit Hours obtained by him/her by logging in to the ICSI portal for members i.e. www.icsi.in

18. Where can I find the PCH Guidelines?

Ans. The Guidelines for Compulsory Attendance of Professional Development Programmes by the Members may be downloaded from the ICSI website at the link:

<http://www.icsi.edu/WebModules/CP/PDPGuidelines3.pdf>

19. I am a very senior member of the Institute, do I still require to obtain PCH?

Ans. Every member of the Institute holding a Certificate of Practice or in employment (i.e. in whose name form 32 has been filed with the RoC) is required to obtain the mandatory number of PCH each year.

20. I am residing in a remote area where there is no chapter of the Institute. To attend a programme I have to travel 100 kms, can I claim exemption from PCH?

Ans. For Members who reside in places beyond 100 km from the nearest Regional Council/Chapter and attend a program at any Program Learning Centre, they shall be awarded double the Program Credit Hours for which the concerned Program is entitled.

However this will not apply to attendance at the National Convention/National Conference of Practising Company Secretaries/Regional Conferences organised by the Regional Councils. Such members have also the option to prepare a research paper on a topic recommended by the Secretariat.

Where the members in practice residing in remote places are not able to attend the professional development programmes, they may write to the Institute for approving a topic on which they can prepare research paper to get the exemption from securing programme credit hours.

The Research paper includes :

- (i) A concept paper on emerging areas of practice for Company Secretaries
- (ii) A Referencer/backgroundunder on contemporary topics relevant to Company Secretaries
- (iii) A booklet on any topic relating to the areas of practice for Company Secretaries
- (iv) A monograph on any contemporary topic relevant to the Practising Company Secretaries
- (v) An empirical study of practical relevance to the Practising Company Secretaries

Members whose research paper is approved by the Professional Development Committee of the Council, will be exempted from the requirement of securing programme credit hours for a block of three years.

Members who reside in places beyond 100 Kms. from the nearest Regional Council/Chapter/Satellite Chapters will be entitled for Eight Programme Credit Hours if their article/reply to prize query is published in the Chartered Secretary.

21. I am a senior citizen, doctor has advised me not to travel long distances, can I be granted exemption from obtaining Programme Credit Hours?

Ans. The Professional Development Committee of the Council of the Institute may at its discretion grant exemption to any member on a case to case basis.

22. I have a baby of three months to take care of at home, can I be exempted from obtaining PCH?

Ans. Such members may acquire PCH through unstructured learning activities.

23. My earnings from practice just enable me to run my family, can I be exempted from payment of fees for attending Professional Development Programmes?

Ans. Such members may acquire PCH through unstructured learning activities.

24. If I am in employment for partial period during a year and unemployed for some time and then I take up practice, then how will the requirement of PCH apply to me?

Ans. Please refer the answer to Question no. 2

25. If I attend Professional Development Programmes organised by the ICAI or ICAI-CMA, will I be given Programme Credit Hours?

Ans. You may be granted Programme Credit Hours for learning programmes organised by other professional bodies only if the programme has been organised jointly with ICSI.

26. I wish to be faculty at the Professional Development Programmes organised by ICSI, whom do I contact?

Ans. You may send your bio data and areas of interest to the Directorate of Professional Development, The Institute of Company Secretaries of India, ICSI HOUSE, 22, Institutional Area, Lodi Road, New Delhi – 110 003