

Standards Revisions

Yoga AllianceSM announced revised standards for registering at both the 200 and 500-hour training levels in June 2005. These standards changes mainly affect schools, which will be required to comply with the revised standards in order to become or remain registered in the future, allowing their graduates to be eligible to register as RYTSMs.

These changes are intended to maintain and strengthen the credibility of Registered Yoga Teachers and Registered Yoga Schools in the yoga community, and to enhance the public perception of yoga teachers as well-trained professionals. **Other than modifications to the current continuing education (CE) requirements, these changes do not affect existing Registered Yoga Teachers or those completing yoga teacher training at a RYSSM by the effective dates noted below.**

The major change affecting teachers not yet registered is the elimination of the RYTSM Independent Study track. **The Independent Study method of registering is no longer available for RYTSM 200 applicants beginning January 1, 2006, or for RYTSM 500 applicants beginning on January 1, 2008.**

RYSSM and RYTSM changes include:

- RYSSM registration guidelines are clarified, and contact hours increased;
- Teaching experience requirements for RYSSM teacher trainers are added;
- RYTSM Independent Study track will no longer be available; and
- RYTSM Continuing Education contact hour requirements are slightly modified for CE attended after January 1, 2006.

Refer to the Standards and Continuing Education sections of this website for more details.

Spirit and Summary of Changes

The spirit of the changes in standards is to include a yoga teacher training program in the RYSSM registry, and recognize its graduates as RYTSMs, only when it:

- Trains teachers under a definite, pre-defined curriculum;
- Is taught by experienced instructors in direct contact with teacher trainees;
- Offers a consistent approach conducive to depth, rather than merely breadth, of topics and approaches.

Effective Dates for Schools

These standards take effect for new RYSSM 200 applicants on January 1, 2006, and new RYSSM 500 applicants on January 1, 2008. Existing RYSSMs 200 will have until January 1, 2007, and existing RYSSMs 500 until January 1, 2008, to comply with the revised standards.