

CURRICULUM CONTENT

PRINCIPLE

The content of continuing education is the crucial component intended to maintain, develop, and increase conceptual and applied competencies that are relevant to psychological practice, education, and science. All CE programs offered for CE credit for psychologists must comply with Standard D criteria. CE programs must be grounded in an evidence-based approach. CE programs that are focused on application of psychological assessment and/or intervention methods must include content that is credibly supported by the most current scientific evidence. CE programs may also provide information related to ethical, legal, statutory or regulatory policies, guidelines, and standards that impact psychology.

CRITERIA

1. Sponsors must document that the content of each CE program meets one of the following:
 - 1.1 Program content focuses on application of psychological assessment and/or intervention methods that have overall consistent and credible empirical support in the contemporary peer reviewed scientific literature beyond those publications and other types of communications devoted primarily to the promotion of the approach;
 - 1.2 Program content focuses on ethical, legal, statutory or regulatory policies, guidelines, and standards that impact psychological practice, education, or research;
 - 1.3 Program content focuses on topics related to psychological practice, education, or research *other than* application of psychological assessment and/or intervention methods that are supported by contemporary scholarship grounded in established research procedures.
2. Sponsors are required to ensure that instructors, during each CE presentation, include statements that describe the accuracy and utility of the materials presented, the empirical basis of such statements, the limitations of the content being taught, and the severe and the most common risks.
3. Sponsors must offer program content that builds upon the foundation of a completed doctoral program in psychology.
4. Sponsors must be prepared to demonstrate that content is relevant to psychological practice, education, and/or science.
5. Sponsors must have a process to identify any potential conflict of interest and/or commercial support for any program offered, and they must clearly describe any commercial support for the CE program, presentation, or instructor to program participants at the time the CE program begins. Any other relationship that could be reasonably construed as a conflict of interest also must be disclosed. Individual presenters must disclose and explain the presence or absence of commercial support or conflict of interest at the time the CE program begins.

Educational and Technical Assistance

Program Content

Acceptable programs must adhere to the definition of continuing education in that they improve service to the public and enhance contributions to the profession. Acceptable programs must also adhere to the American Psychological Association policy on Quality Professional Development and Continuing Education (APA, 2013). Determination of eligibility is not made on the basis of topic alone.

Because psychologists work in a variety of professional settings, sponsors are encouraged to offer a wide range of topics that can meet the diverse CE needs of psychologists. The Committee encourages innovative programs, only if clear and sufficient evidence is provided that demonstrate the criteria for Standard D are met by these programs.

Content related to the professional practice of psychology, business of practice, education, administration, conducting research, or career management programs should be carefully considered to determine whether or not the content of the programs can be deemed appropriate CE content for psychologists.

Empirical support for the application of psychological assessment methods and interventions can be demonstrated through a variety of scientific methods. In-text citations to recent peer-reviewed journal publications embedded in the Sponsor's narrative response to Standard D are one method to provide this foundation. It is recognized that some psychological interventions may not yet be supported by positive results from clinical trials, and yet be considered to be sufficiently evidence-based. The sponsor is responsible for providing sufficient information for the Continuing Education Committee to judge the evidence-based foundations of the proposed content covered.

The responsibility is on the applicant to provide substantive and convincing evidence that the programs meet the requirements of Standard D. Applicants must adequately establish the bridge between program content and the elements of the criteria using appropriate evidence. Assertion on the part of the applicant that the program meets the criteria is insufficient. The more distant a topic appears from core disciplinary knowledge, the greater the responsibility of the sponsor to demonstrate the connection to improvement of services to the public and contributions to the profession. At least three (3) current (within the past 10 years), relevant (aligned with learning objectives and content), supporting (e.g., peer-review journal articles for D.1.1 and D.1.3), and complete references (in APA format) must be provided as evidence that program content has met the requirements of a specific D.1. criterion. The narrative provided for each of the four programs should explicitly link the references provided as evidence to the program content of the program, both of which should be linked to a specific D.1. criterion. In addition to the response to Criterion D.1., appropriate content should be conveyed in program titles, learning objectives, and promotional materials.

If you are teaching psychologists interventions or assessments that they will use with clients, you will address Standard D.1.1.

Examples:

Interpersonal psychotherapy for depression
The utilization of the DSM 5 in children and adolescents
Behavioral analysis in the treatment of autism spectrum disorder
Treatment of post-traumatic stress in immigrant families

If you are teaching psychologists about ethical, legal, statutory or regulatory policies, guidelines, and standards in practice or research, you will address Standard D.1.2

Examples:

Ethical considerations in telehealth
Compliance with HIPPA regulations
Ethical considerations in substance abuse research with adolescents
Mental health care under the Affordable Care Act

If you are teaching psychologists content other than psychological intervention, assessment, and ethics, you will address Standard D.1.3

Examples:

Learning about the "new statistics"
Mental health advocacy for marginalized populations
Writing for professional psychology journals
Neurobiological changes following exposure to trauma

Full Disclosure

Sponsors ensure that instructors provide a sufficient basis for the interpretation of program information by informing participants of limitations of the content being taught, including contradictory evidence and its source. For example, presentations that include discussions of clinical assessments, treatments, or interventions also describe the evidence for this information, including the basis (e.g., research, established psychological practice, clinical expertise, patient acceptability) of such descriptions or claims, their limitations, and the severe risks, if any, and also those risks that are most common.

Potential conflict of interest, commercial support, or commercial interest applies to sponsoring organizations, the presenter, and the content of the presentation. Sponsors should advise participants of the potential biases inherent in accepting inducements that might affect the selection of texts, the use of particular tests, and/or sponsorship of CE courses.

Sponsors are required to provide information that demonstrates their adherence to Standard D. In the normal course of program preparation, instructors should be able to provide information that demonstrates compliance with the standard. Sponsors could address this in some combination of the program learning objectives, participants' evaluation of content, citations to research references, or a clause in a contract with instructors.

For additional application support materials, please refer to our [Resources](#) page.