



Oklahoma Psychological Association

"Thinking Psychologically, Serving Responsibly"

Excerpts from the OPA Rules Regarding Continuing Education Procedure (a full hard copy of OPA rules is available from Dana Foley):

The Oklahoma State Board of Examiners of Psychologists has approved the OPA as a continuing education provider effective March 17, 1990. CE credits approved by OPA are applicable to license renewal in Oklahoma.

Continuing education certification may be granted for educational activities relevant to psychological practice (including administration, community service and teaching), theory or methods which are at a post-graduate level. The educational program or activity must be designed to accomplish at least one of the following goals

1. improve competence in professionally relevant ways
2. make possible the acquisition of new skills and knowledge required to maintain competence
3. strengthen the habits of critical inquiry and balanced judgment that denote the professional and scientific person
4. provide exposure to new ideas, research or techniques which increase the knowledge of those attending

Continuing education certification is limited to formally organized learning experiences targeted toward a professional audience. Activities designed to promote personal growth and development, which may be valid and valuable, may not be appropriate for continuing education certification. Experiential workshops must train the psychologist to directly utilize the experiential methods or techniques as opposed to primarily benefiting the personal growth and adjustment of the psychologist.

OPA CE certification is for specific workshops and no general or blanket approval may be extended. However, a specific workshop may be certified for more than one date provided these dates are specified at the time of application.

CE certification is not provided for academic courses or programs of study.

Under certain circumstances, a provider may choose to offer an activity in segments across a time period. Certification of a series of activities may be permitted to the degree that the sections are logically and legitimately connected, serve specific unifying goals and objectives, and are sufficiently close together in time to provide a coherent and functioning training experience.

At major conventions or symposia, several workshops or break out sessions may be combined under one activity certification provided that all of the activities meet learning experience requirements, that they are related to a unifying theme, and that proper

provisions are made to ensure participant attendance. At such workshops, credit is not given for business meetings or social activities.

CE programs must meet the ethical and professional standards of OPA and the APA.

As a general rule, CE credit will be awarded only for activities attended by six or more professional participants.

Following approval of the CE activity, the sponsor will be provided with an OPA CE Approval number and a Verification of Attendance form. The sponsor will be responsible for providing participants with an appropriately completed Continuing Education Approval Verification of Attendance form in addition to any other attendance form or certificate awarded by the sponsor. The participant's name and license number will be entered in the appropriate spaces in the presence of the sponsor or sponsor's representative..

All continuing education activities should have formally stated learning objectives. Such objectives define the intended outcome of the training experience.

Category A credit is awarded for formally organized learning experiences which meet the general requirements already stated and which provide

1. specified content, topic, or objectives
2. a format or curriculum which demonstrate a reasonable probability of translating program objectives into action
3. instructors with demonstrated special competence or expertise in the area taught by virtue of academic preparation and/or work-related experience
4. a sufficient duration (minimum 3 hours) to explore one subject or a closely related group of subjects in reasonable depth
5. an evaluation of participant satisfaction and the effectiveness of the activity

Activities which may be appropriate for category A credit include formal workshops, training institutes, and professional seminars or conferences.

Category B credit is awarded for formally organized learning experiences which meet the general requirements already stated and which provide

1. specified content, topic, or objectives
2. a format or curriculum which demonstrate a reasonable probability of translating program objectives into action
3. instructors with demonstrated special competence or expertise in the area taught by virtue of academic preparation and/or work-related experience
4. a sufficient duration (minimum 1 hour) to explore the subject matter in reasonable depth

Activities which may be appropriate for category B credit include symposia, invited speakers, colloquia, and professional or scientific meetings.