

Acceptable content for Social Work continuing education activities.

Topics must be relevant to evidence-based social work practice and reflect current peer-reviewed research, best practices, and the needs of social workers. Course topics must be pertinent to social work theory, methods, and practice and reflect current research and best practices.

The CE provider must be able to answer yes to the following questions:

-Will it help social workers better serve the public and support ongoing professional competence?

-Can it be understood as building on a degree in social work for someone currently practicing as a licensed social worker?

-Is it credible (i.e., empirical, peer reviewed, follows established research procedures) OR does it address legal, ethical or regulatory professional standards?

- Course topics must clearly fall within the scope of practice for social workers and be directly applicable to social work practice, relating to one or more of the following social work educational areas
 - Theories and concepts of human behavior in the social environment
 - Social work practice, knowledge, and skills
 - Social work research, programs, or practice evaluations
 - Social work agency management or administration
 - Development, evaluation, and implementation of social policy
 - Social work generalist practice
 - Social work clinical practice
 - Diversity and social justice
 - Social work ethics
- Course content should be based on peer-reviewed research, cover evidence-based practice, and apply specifically to the needs and the scope of practice of licensed social workers.
- Courses related to other functions sometimes filled by social workers, such as leadership or business practices or processes, may not be acceptable for social work CE credit. Training that applies to leaders in any field, even when helpful to social workers in management roles, is not considered acceptable for social work CE credit unless the course includes learning objectives specific to social workers.
- Course topics that are primarily procedural or oriented toward business practices, self-help, or self-development are not acceptable for social work CE credit.

Determination of the appropriateness of a course must not be made based on topic alone. The provider must adequately establish the connection between course content and one or more of the social work educational areas. The more distant a topic appears from core disciplinary knowledge, the greater the responsibility of the CE provider to ensure that the CE is relevant to licensed social workers.

Multidisciplinary courses

CE providers may offer courses for social work CE that were originally developed for other professions if they include content appropriate for social workers and meet ACE standards. Such courses must be revised so the course materials, learning objectives, promotional materials, etc., are inclusive of social workers. CE providers must not offer a course for social work CE that was created for another profession and that includes learning objectives and content that are inappropriate for social workers or are geared specifically to another profession or professions.

For example, a course on end of life care developed for nurses may include content that would be valuable to a social worker who is part of a multidisciplinary team. If the course content, course materials, learning objectives, and promotional materials specifically address the nurse's role, the ethics of nursing professionals and end of life care, or a nurse's scope of practice, then it would be too focused on the nursing profession to be offered by a CE provider for social work CE credit.

ACCEPTABLE COURSE CONTENT AREAS

A course may focus on more than one topic within a category or from different categories.

Individuals, couples, families, children

- Mandatory reporting
- Human development & behavior
- Gender/gender identity
- Sexuality
- Family systems
- Issues of poverty
- Diagnosis/assessment
- New approaches to treatment
- Social work research
- Social work clinical practice
- Social work nonclinical practice
- Social work with individuals
- Social work ethics

Human development, diversity and behavior in the environment

- Cultural competency
- Diversity issues
- LGBTQI issues
- Multiculturalism
- Gender/gender identity
- Sexual orientation
- Disabilities
- Issues of poverty
- Domestic violence
- Psychotherapy
- Psychology
- Aging
- Gerontology
- Substance abuse & addiction
- Addiction theories & therapies
- Medical social work
- Psychopharmacology
- Diagnosis/assessment
- HIV-AIDS
- Trauma
- Sexual abuse/assault
- Death and dying
- Grief
- Spirituality
- New approaches to treatment
- Social work research
- Social work clinical practice
- Social work ethics
- Social work with individuals

Communities and groups

- Social work with organizations
- Social justice
- Theories and methods of social change
- Social work with communities
- Social work system interface
- Social work communication

- International Issues
- Economic issues
- Issues of poverty
- Social work research
- Social work nonclinical practice
- Social work ethics

Professional relationships, values, & ethics

- Professional impairment
- Mandatory reporting
- Professional competency
- Therapeutic relationships
- Psychotherapy
- Psychology
- Research/practice evaluation
- Boundary issues
- Confidentiality
- Client rights
- Dual or multiple relationships
- Mandatory reporting
- Billing practices
- Conflicts of interest
- Sexual misconduct
- Fraud
- Social work supervision
- Risk management
- Service delivery
- Spirituality
- Social work research
- Social work ethics
- Social work clinical supervision

Public administration & policy

- Social policy
- Grants/funding
- Organizations
- Social work system interface
- International Issues
- Economic issues
- Issues of poverty
- Social work ethics

Practice administration (specific to social work or general behavioral health fields)

- Record keeping
- Informed consent
- Law
- Service delivery
- Billing practices (ethical)
- Fraud
- Practice development (ethical)
- Social work ethics

QUESTIONABLE COURSE CONTENT AREAS

- Touch therapy (e.g. Reiki)
- Insurance billing (e.g. Medicare, Medicaid, etc.)
- Compassion fatigue
- Yoga
- Mindfulness

UNACCEPTABLE COURSE CONTENT AREAS

- Exam prep
- Self help
- Personal growth/enrichment
- General leadership or management
- Marketing or growing a practice/business
- Generating income
- Billing/coding
- Office management
- Supervisory sessions
- Technology enhancement
- Staff orientation
- Company specific policies or procedures
- CPR
- Infection control
- Interpreter training
- Commercial content
- Topics outside of scope of practice for social workers (e.g. prescribing, nutrition, massage, etc.)
- Coaching (i.e., courses that discuss coaching, in general, and do not require the attendee be a licensed mental health or health care professional to register)
- Promotion of sexual orientation change efforts as a therapeutic method (sometimes called "conversion therapy")
- Political and religious content restriction: The program content cannot state or imply in any manner that individuals who act inconsistently with or who do not accept a particular political or religious belief or principle are dysfunctional or otherwise inappropriate or that the belief itself is unacceptable or incorrect.

*The above list is not comprehensive. Additional course content areas may be determined to be unacceptable to offer for ACE credit if they do not meet ACE standards. Supervision towards licensure cannot be offered for CE credit to participants in such supervision.