



Continuing Education Recommended Guidelines for Online Courses

Adopted by the Producer Licensing (EX) Working Group on March 29, 2015

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Goal: To deliver functional computer-based Internet courses that offer quality insurance and/or risk management material in a password-protected online environment.

Key Components:

- Material that is current, relevant, accurate, and that includes valid reference materials, graphics and interactivity.
- Clearly defined objectives and course completion criteria
- Specific instructions to register, navigate and complete the course work
- Technical support/provider representative should be available during business hours and response provided within 24 hours of initial contact.
- Instructors/subject matter experts must be available to answer student questions during provider business hours
- Process to authenticate student identity such as passwords and security prompts
- Method for measuring the student's successful completion of course which includes the material, exam and any proctor requirements.
- Process for requesting and receiving CE course-completion certificate and reporting student results to the appropriate regulator
- Require each agent to enroll for the course before having access to course material.
- Prevent access to the course exam before review of the course materials.
Prevent downloading of any course exam.
- Provide review questions at the end of each unit/chapter and prevent access to the final exam until each set of questions are answered at a 70% rate.
Provide final exam questions that do not duplicate unit/chapter questions.
- Prevent alternately accessing course materials and course exams. This does not apply if the state allows for "open book" exams.
- Have monitor affidavit containing specific monitor duties and responsibilities printed for monitor's use to direct the taking of the final exam. Monitor will complete the affidavit after the exam is completed. (This only for states that require a monitored exam).

Final Assessment (exam) Criteria:

- Minimum of 10 questions for 1 credit hour course with additional 5 questions for each subsequent credit hour and a score of 70% or greater
- At least enough questions to fashion a minimum of 2 versions with a least 50% of questions being new/different in each subsequent version
- Inability to print the exam or to view the exam prior to reviewing material
- Proctor, if required by the state, who verifies identity by photo identification and processes affidavit testifying the student received no outside assistance

Procedures to determine Appropriate Number of Credit Hours:

Word Count/Difficulty Level

- Divide total number of words by 180 (documented average reading time) = number of minutes to read material
- Divide number of minutes by 50 = credit hours
- Course difficulty level is identified by the CE provider on the CER form and should be based on the NAIC CE Standardized Terms-Definitions for basic, intermediate and advanced course difficulty levels.
- Multiply number of hours by 1.00 for a basic level course; 1.25 for an intermediate level; 1.50 for an advanced course for additional study time = total number of credit hours (fractional hours rounded up if .50 or above and rounded down if .49 or less)

Interactive Course Content

- Elements included in the online course, in addition to text, such as video, animation, interactive exercises, quizzes, case studies, games, and simulations.

Interactive elements should be applicable to course material and facilitate student learning.

- Only mandatory interactive elements should be included in the calculation of CE credit hours.
- Calculation of CE hour credits should be based on the run time of the interactive elements.
- CE providers will indicate run time of the interactive elements in the course content and upon request provide access to the state for review of the course.

Professional Designation Course

- Course that is part of a nationally recognized professional designation
- Credit hours equivalent to hours assigned to the same classroom course material

Final Assessment

- Time spent completing the final assessment should not be used in calculation of CE credit hours.

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