



Levels of Programing

In general, there are no concrete rules regarding labeling the content of CE programs as introductory, intermediate, or advanced. It is important for sponsors to evaluate the level of their programming effectively so the learner understands the level at which information will be presented and for the sponsor to develop learning objectives that are consistent with that level.

All CE programs must address content at the post-doctoral level. However, there are differences between the levels of programming that can be considered.

Introductory – Content is designed for psychologists who may have little to no background in a specialized skill or content area. Through this level of programming, the learner can become acquainted with the theoretical underpinnings, principles, methods, and perspectives of a content area. An introductory level program also may serve as the foundation for subsequent intermediate and advanced learning. Introductory level programing may also be related to an emerging area of knowledge or practice. Although this content can be used as a foundation for more advanced learning, an introductory level program may simply focus on breadth, enrichment or general knowledge.

Intermediate – Intermediate level programming builds upon the learners' foundational knowledge in a content area. Programming at the intermediate level includes more depth than that which is associated with a beginning level program. The program of instruction can build on the learners' familiarity with the literature and/or experience. Programming can help the learner understand applications and limitations of theories and applied skill sets. Intermediate level programming may also focus on an integration of skills. This programming could also serve as a refresher course for individuals who have background in a content area and are interested in learning more contemporary applications.

Advanced – CE program content at an advanced level builds upon established experience, knowledge and skills in the content area. This may include more diverse applications to specific populations or a novel application of the skill presented. Advanced level programming allows learners to refine their knowledge and skills in a content area and learn to effectively utilize them across challenging contexts. The content and instructional flow is consistent with the needs of a learner who has knowledge, experience, and skills in the content area. Advanced level programming tends to be more specialized in nature and allows the learner to integrate and enhance knowledge and skills into their practice or other professional domains.