

CE Activity Types

You may find any number of formats and/or methods are useful in developing successful CE activities. Some of the most popular include courses, study groups, workshops, seminars, conferences, and lectures.

Here are a few brief definitions to help you better understand which format/method may be most suitable for you (and your committee):

Course: Formal learning experiences varying in length (several sessions, one semester, or a full academic year). Courses are generally 1) taught by chapter members known as faculty, 2) limited to members of WSP, and 3) accompanied by a syllabus and reading list.

Workshop: Intensive programs that can last anywhere from several hours to two days. Such programs focus on one specific topic and allow for a combination of lecture, group discussion, and application. Methods for this format include bringing in a note speaker for the weekend, holding a large group experience, hosting a clinical dialogue between a senior clinician and a limited number of participants.

Seminar: Short (1 to 3 hours) semi-structured programs that allow small groups of people (5-20) to focus on a particular topic or issue. Methods for this format include hosting a panel or group discussions, film review and critique, presentations with a case discussion, speaker or lecturer series, or special programs that feature the work and thoughts of student members.

Conference: Large, structured, multi-day events composed of multi-session programs that are often designed around short seminars and workshops that address a specific theme, topic, or issue.

Lecture: General more didactic experiences that can be standalone or found within any of the formats above with few opportunities for discussion or group interaction.

Independent Study: learning experiences that allow learners to engage in continuing education on their own. Formats include books, videotapes, audiotapes, CD-ROMs, and web-based activities.

Regardless of delivery mode, all CE activities must adhere to the standards of our regulatory bodies. Specifically, activities offered for CE credit must (1) develop educational objectives; (2) include instructional methods that actively engage learners and enhance mental health provider knowledge and practice; and (3) be led by a presenter with demonstrated qualifications in the subject matter presented.

Due to updated regulations, study groups and book clubs will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.