Reviewing APHA Annual Meeting Scientific Sessions: Accreditation Criteria

Program Planners Meeting
November 7, 2019

Mighty Fine, MPH, CHES
Center for Public Health Practice & Professional Development
Public health related continuing education is a learning experience designed to augment the knowledge, skills or competence, performance, attitudes or the professional development of the workforce. Such learning is aimed to improve the health of the public and the health care delivery system by presenting best practices, evidence-based practice and practice-based evidence in such contexts as public health education, policy, regulation, law or other relevant environment.

The American Public Health Association's mission includes providing, co-providing or jointly sponsoring quality continuing education for public health professionals. The mission also includes approving educational activities that are developed by external entities and submitted to APHA for approval to award CE contact hour credits in public health and related areas.
The Association’s CE program is multi-disciplinary with a single set of policies and processes that meet the requirements of the accreditations that it holds.

The Association’s priority is to assure compliance with the following CE accrediting organizations:

**National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc.** (NCHEC) for certified health education specialists (CHES/MCHES)

**Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education** (ACCME) for physicians and non-physicians (CME)

**American Nurses Credential Center Commission on Accreditation** (ANCC) for nurses

**National Board of Public Health Examiners** (NBPHE) for certified public health (CPH) professionals

**AAVSB RACE** for veterinarians and veterinarian technicians
APHA Interdisciplinary Program

- Review the criteria and requirements of all 4 disciplines
- A Session either gets credit for all four disciplines or no credit.
- Sessions are reviewed for MCHES separately **after** the initial review and awarded credit based on advanced competency requirements from NCHEC
- Session are reviewed for VET separately after the initial review and awarded credit based on RACE criteria
Each session’s presenter, faculty, or panelist must have:

Abstract Content
Learning Outcomes
Conflict of Interest Disclosure
Abstract Content

• **Title**- Individual titles cannot be the same as the session title

• **Abstract** - Each presenter needs an abstract describing what will be presented. An abstract should clearly state the purpose, the relevance, content and evidence based on the needs assessment for the topic

• At least one **singular** measureable **learning outcome**

• **No mention of commercial entity** brand names product or service or promoting a single or specific product or service.
Learning Outcomes

—A learning outcome reflects what the learner will be able to do as a result of participating in this educational activity. Each abstract needs at least one **measurable SINGLE learning outcome** based on the presenter’s abstract. No compound learning outcomes.

—Use the following verbs ONLY: *explain, demonstrate, analyze, formulate, discuss, compare, differentiate, describe, name, assess, evaluate, identify, design, define or list.*

—Understand, knowledge or learn are not measureable outcomes.
Conflict of Interest Statement

All individuals in a position to control content must complete the conflict of interest documentation. This includes speakers, panelists, discussants, moderators or faculty.

Qualification Statement

Conflict of Interest Statement

Signature/Resolution
Qualification Statement

Each presenter MUST complete a statement that describes their qualification for presenting and area(s) of expertise. NOTE: this has been a big issue in the past and some sessions were not granted CE for this reason. Having a poor qualification statement can make a session ineligible for CE.

Acceptable Example
I am qualified to present because I have conducted research in the area of maternal and child health for the past 20 years and have given multiple presentations on this subject at APHA Annual meeting and other national conferences.

Unacceptable Example
I am qualified because I am a professor at APHA University.
Conflict of Interest Statement

Each organizer, moderator, presenter, faculty, etc, **MUST** answer the “**Required Disclosure**” section on the Conflict of Interest Disclosure form.

“*During the past 12 months have you, or your spouse or partner had a financial relationship that might potentially bias and/or impact content of the educational activity/session?*”
Signature/Resolution

Each organizer, moderator, presenter, faculty, discussant, or panelist **MUST** sign the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form. Electronic/Typed signatures are accepted.

“Resolution: I agree not to promote any products, goods or services or to bias the educational content and to comply with the American Public Health Association Conflict of Interest Policy, Commercial Support Standards, as they become applicable to me.”
Commercial interests

A commercial interest is defined as “any proprietary entity producing, marketing, reselling or distributing health care goods or services consumed by, or used on, patients or an entity”, with the exemption of non profit or government organizations and non-health care related companies.

The following are not considered commercial interests:

• For profit hospitals, rehabilitation centers and nursing homes
• Liability insurance providers, health insurance providers, group medical practices
Outside Funding Source

If a presenter’s research/work/program was funded by a commercial interest/entity as defined by accreditation bodies, Conflict of Interest disclosure form should be answered “yes” and the entity disclosed. The conflict will need to be resolved.

Example:

Required Disclosure: During the past 12 months have you or your spouse or partner had a financial, professional or personal relationship that potentially bias and/or impact content of the educational activity/session:  ___X__ yes  ______no

If yes, list company (s) with relationship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>Name of Commercial Company</th>
<th>Nature of Relationship</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jane Brown</td>
<td>Sanofi, Merck, Takeda</td>
<td>Consultant</td>
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# Checklist for CE Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>YES</th>
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<th>Comments</th>
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</thead>
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<td>Is there an abstract for each presentation</td>
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If you answered no to any of these questions, ask the presenter to make the corrections or you can do them yourself.
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**Where we need your help 😊**

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Noncompliance Areas
Ongoing Issues

- Learning Outcomes
- Biographical Statements
Common errors

• Learning Outcomes
  – Compound
  – Written from the speaker’s perspective

• Biographical Statements
  – TBD
  – I wrote the abstract
  – I am the PI of the study
**Quick Tips**

- **Session** — Avoid having 5 or more speakers per session unless it is a round table discussion.
- **Qualification statement** — One poor statement will jeopardize credit for the entire session.
- **Abstract** — One abstract out of compliance will jeopardize credit for the entire session.
- **Collaboration** — Engage other sessions to help reduce duplication.
- **Review Sessions** — Assess sessions for compliance and make changes.
- **Questions** — Contact us if you’re unsure.
Questions?
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ABOUT APHA

The American Public Health Association champions the health of all people and all communities. We strengthen the profession of public health, promote best practices and share the latest public health research and information. We are the only organization that combines a nearly 150-year perspective a broad-based member community and the ability to influence federal policy to improve the public's health. Learn more at www.apha.org.