

POLICY ON ETHICS COURSE GUIDELINES

- A. Ethics Course Guidelines for Psychologists and Providers:
- (1) Material suitable for professional development credit is that which reflects on the directives of the TSBEP and or the guidelines established by APA, NASP or other organizations of professional psychologists. Courses that focus on bases for ethical decision making and/or problem-solving with diverse groups, contexts and situations are particularly relevant to this category of professional development.
 - (2) Professional Ethics concerns conduct and practice when engaged in professional work. Any code may be considered to be a formalization of experience into a set of rules. A professional group adopts a code in order to define and promote its purposes and activities - ethical boundaries are established in order to regulate practice in a way that is acceptable to its incumbents.
 - (3) Codes of Ethics are concerned with a range of issues designed to set out the ideals and responsibilities of the profession. Ethics requirements are intended to provide assistance in determining appropriate decision-making and behavior, improve consistency, and provide a minimum acceptable level of practice.
 - (4) Examples of acceptable professional development courses/topics could include: "Update on new and revised TSBEP rules" or "Informed consent with geriatric populations." Examples of unacceptable professional development courses/topics include: "Diagnostic indicators for..." or "Medical model implications for the practice of psychology."
- B. The following may be considered by the Board Staff in determining whether a particular Professional development course may be counted for the purposes of the ethics requirement:
- (1) Does the title of the designated professional development experience include the word or

derivations of "ethics" "legal," "rules," "regulation," "risk management," or other conceptually related terms?

- (2) Does the title of the professional development activity suggest that the focus was to enhance or improve practice that is consistent with lawful, regulated and/or ethical practice of psychology (as opposed to new, elaborated or improved techniques of practice)?
- (3) Is it clear from the title or course description (for audited professional development) that the course or activity was designed to enhance or upgrade professional skills or knowledge relative to ethical practice of psychology as regulated by the Rules of the TSBEP?

Effective: November 2003