



## Continuing Education Eligibility Checklist

Thank you for considering offering a Continuing Education (CE) eligible proposal/program!

This document contains detailed information to assist you in developing a program that complies with requirements for CE eligibility. The most important information is contained in **Quick View Summary of APA's CE Eligibility Requirements**. Please review that in full, and then additional information throughout the document as needed.

SCP's members tend to favor programs which offer CEs, and thus SCP tends to prioritize CE eligible programs. Still, you may choose not to apply to be eligible for continuing education units granted by SCP for APA and/or ICF.

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## APA CE Programs

### Quick View Summary of APA's CE Eligibility Requirements

Start here. This summary provides an overview of what qualifies as CE eligible. Please review this entire document for more detailed information.

#### I. Program Content

CE Eligible programs must satisfy all four (4) of the following:

- 1) Helps psychologists to better serve the public and enhance the profession;
- 2) Is understood as building on a doctoral degree in psychology;
- 3) Is credible (e.g., theoretically; empirically; accepted conventional practice) OR addresses legal, ethical, or regulatory professional standards
- 4) Is relevant to psychological practice, education, and/or science.

Sessions that focus on how consultants can improve themselves, but not how this will serve the public or enhance the profession, are ineligible for CEs.

#### II. Learning Objectives

Learning objectives must be observable, quantifiable and focused on what attendees will be able to do as a result of attending the session.

*See below for more information.*

#### III. Content focus ("Section D" Criteria)

All APA CE eligible programs must fit into one (1) of the following three criteria.

Criterion 1.1 Program content focuses on application of psychological assessment and/or intervention methods that have overall consistent and credible empirical support in the contemporary peer reviewed scientific literature beyond those publications and other types of communications devoted primarily to the promotion of the approach.

Criterion 1.2 Program content focuses on ethical, legal, statutory or regulatory policies, guidelines, and standards that impact psychological practice, education, or research.

Criterion 1.3 Program content focuses on topics related to psychological practice, education, or research other than application of psychological assessment and/or intervention methods that are supported by contemporary scholarship grounded in established research procedures.

*See below for more information.*

#### IV. Current research to back the program (references)

All presenters must provide at least three (3 or more) references which are:

- a. Current (within the last 10 years)



- b. Empirical and/or peer-reviewed from the scholarly literature (generally, books and textbooks are not acceptable unless shown to be peer-reviewed in the same manner as a scholarly article)
- c. Not authored by the session presenter(s)

If authored or co-authored by the session presenter(s), please be sure to note why these are the only references available, and note as a potential conflict of interest later in the application.

### Other key criteria

- ✓ Determination of eligibility is not made on the basis of topic alone.
  - The responsibility is on the applicant to **adequately establish the bridge between program content and the elements of the criteria**. Is this bridge clearly articulated?
- ✓ The proposal/program clearly articulates the “intent” of the program.
  - Specifically, **will the intent help psychologists serve the public and enhance the profession?**
- ✓ The proposal/program is clearly understood as **building on a doctoral degree in psychology**.
- ✓ The proposal/program is **creditable** (e.g., theoretically, empirically; accepted conventional practice) *OR* **addresses legal, ethical, or regulatory professional standards**. (See “*Standard D*”, below, for detail.)
- ✓ In general, there should be no **more than 3 presenters for a 90-minute presentation and 4 presenters for a 2-hour presentation**.

### Overview of APA’s CE Eligibility Requirements

Building upon the summary above, the following information represents the appendices of the American Psychological Association’s (APA) Continuing Education Sponsor Application (CESA).

The proposal/program adheres to **APA’s definition of continuing education in psychology**, which is defined as **an ongoing process consisting of formal learning activities that are (1) relevant to psychological practice, education and science, (2) enable psychologists to keep pace with emerging issues and technologies, and (3) allow psychologists to maintain, develop, and increase competencies in order to improve services to the public and enhance contributions to the profession**.

If the proposal/program addresses the personal or professional well-being and development of the psychologist, be specific about *how* this is addressed. While it is hoped that CE programs will help psychologists achieve their personal and professional goals, programs with this focus must clearly explain how this clearly meets the above definition to be considered for CE eligibility. **In general, sessions focused on the attendee’s personal or professional well-being will not be eligible for CEs unless they meet the above definition *and* satisfy a “*Standard D*” criterion** (described below).



## Learning Outcomes / Objectives

- ✓ Learning objectives, or learning outcomes, (both abbreviated as LOs) are statements that **clearly describe what the learner will know or be able to do as a result of having attended an educational program or activity.**
- ✓ LOs should:
  - Be **Relevant to psychological practice, theory, and method for doctoral level psychologists.**
  - Be **Specific, observable, and measurable.**
  - Quantifiable whenever possible. For example: *“Participants will be able to identify **three** coaching skills for maximum client growth and development.”*
  - Be focused on the learner.
  - Clearly identify what **knowledge, skills, and/or abilities** participants can hope to gain upon successful completion of the proposal/program.
  - Precisely describe **what a particular activity/component** of the program is **designed to achieve.**
  - See below for examples.
- ✓ Recommended **number of LOs:**
  - 3 to 4 LOs for sessions that are 1-4 hours long
  - 4 to 5 LOs for a 5-6 hour session
  - 5 to 6 LOs for a 7-8 hour session

## Writing Behavioral Learning Objectives and Assessments

- ✓ LOs should be written in a quantifiable manner that **allows participants to evaluate whether they achieved that objective on a 1 to 5 Likert scale.**
- ✓ LOs contain 3 components. Each learning objective must answer **each** of these questions:
  - **Who is to perform/carry out** the specified action?
  - **What action** are they going to take?
  - **What result** will come from their action?

## Examples

Verbs to consider for LOs	Verbs to <i>avoid</i> for LOs
list, describe, recite, write, predict compute, discuss, explain, assess apply, demonstrate, prepare, use, compare analyze, design, select, utilize, rate compile, create, plan, revise, critique	know, understand learn, appreciate become aware of, become familiar with

## Example of well-written LOs:

<p><i>Based on the content of the workshop, I am able to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Describe at least two theoretical approaches to group facilitation;</i></li> <li>2. <i>Employ at least two techniques to refocus a facilitated group discussion when it begins to move off task;</i></li> <li>3. <i>Explain three ways that virtual facilitation differs from in-person facilitation;</i></li> <li>4. <i>Demonstrate one technique for doing a process check during a webinar;</i></li> <li>5. <i>State that I had the opportunity to practice at least one facilitation technique during the workshop.</i></li> </ol>
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## More examples to illustrate effective LOs

Session title: Succeeding in a Consulting Career

### **Insufficient** LOs:

*At the conclusion of this program, participants will be able to:*

1. *Identify the advantages in advancing one's career of having an evidence-based consulting practice*
2. *Manage the complexities of scheduling practicum students, interns, supervisees and other helpers*
3. *Negotiate the ins and outs of getting publications and grants*
4. *Discharge consulting obligations while still having time to write*
5. *Increase chances for retention, tenure, and promotion through understanding consulting firm organization policies and the administrative structure*

### **Acceptable** LOs:

*At the conclusion of this program, participants will be able to:*

1. *Identify three practical applications that benefit clients from employing evidenced based consulting practices*
2. *Identify three relevant ethical codes associated with the supervision of practicum students, interns, and supervisees*
3. *Describe three regulatory and ethical factors from the APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct that apply to publication and grant writing with colleagues or students*
4. *Apply three appropriate consulting skills for maximal client growth*
5. *Use an understanding of consulting form/organization policies and the administrative structure to describe how to create three instances of more efficient consulting products and services that will best serve clients*

Note from APA: The insufficient learning objectives identify the advantages to the individual consultant, but fail to link these to improved services and the broader regulatory, ethical or professional issues that might also serve broader constituents within this context. By contrast, the acceptable learning objectives effectively tie the knowledge gains associated with this program to the effective functioning of the students and the clients associated with the consultant's functioning, and highlight the professional and scientific gains that would be expected to accrue as a result.

## Further APA Requirements for CE Sessions Relevant to Presenters

### Program Content and Content Type

- ✓ **APA Rationale:** The **content** of continuing education is **intended to maintain, develop, and increase conceptual and applied competencies that are relevant to psychological practice, education, and science.**
  - As such, all CE programs offered for CE credit for psychologists **must be grounded in an evidence-based approach.** CE programs that are focused on application of psychological assessment and/or intervention methods must include content that is credibly supported by the

most current scientific evidence. CE programs may also provide information related to ethical, legal, statutory or regulatory policies, guidelines, and standards that impact psychology.

- ✓ To meet the above rationale, CE Session presenters must identify the Criteria (referred to as “**Standard D**”) into which their proposed session best fits. While not prohibited from selecting more than 1 area, we strongly **encourage presenters to limit themselves to only 1 area of focus**. (See *Appendix* for additional information regarding Standard D criteria.)

\_\_\_ Criterion 1.1: Program content focuses on **application of psychological assessment and/or intervention** methods that have overall consistent and credible empirical support in the contemporary peer reviewed scientific literature beyond those publications and other types of communications devoted primarily to the promotion of the approach.

\_\_\_ Criterion 1.2: Program content focuses on **ethical, legal, statutory or regulatory policies, guidelines, and standards** that impact psychological practice, education, or research.

\_\_\_ Criterion 1.3: Program content focuses on topics related to **psychological practice, education, or research other than application of psychological assessment and/or intervention** methods that are supported by contemporary scholarship grounded in established research procedures.

- o You must briefly describe **how the program content meets the specified criterion**.
- ✓ Presenters are required to **provide 3 (or more) current (within the last 10 years) literature references** for each proposed session. (See *Appendix* for additional details about references.)
  - o If included references are authored or co-authored by the session presenter(s), please be sure to note this as a *potential conflict of interest* later in this application.

### Presenter Qualifications and Conflicts of Interest

- ✓ Presenters are not required to be psychologists, however, all presenters of CE sessions must be **properly qualified** and have sufficient experience with their given topic area.
  - o **Each presenter** is required to **provide a CV/resume** for review by the CE Committee.
- ✓ Presenters must include statements during the CE Session that **describe the accuracy and utility of the materials** presented, the basis of such statements, the **limitations** of the content being taught, and the severe and the most common **risks**.
- ✓ Presenters should **clearly describe any commercial support** for the CE program, presentation, or instructor to program participants at the time the CE program begins.
  - o Any other relationships that could be reasonably construed as a conflict of interest also must be disclosed at the time the CE program begins. SCP and SPIM are also required to identify the presence or absence of any potential conflicts of interest or commercial support in the programming and advertising material for each CE session so that potential participants are made aware of this prior to attending the session, in addition to being informed by the presenter at the start of the session.
- ✓ In order to ensure adherence to APA's requirements for CE eligibility, questions concerning much of the above will be included in attendees' post-session evaluations (e.g., whether or not the presenter disclosed any possible conflicts of interest at the beginning of their sessions). This feedback will be used when reviewing future proposals for CE eligibility.

### Overview of ICF's CCE Eligibility Requirements



The majority of ICF's CCE eligibility requirements are the same as APA's, and thus do not require additional information. This section details the information which ICF requires *in addition to* APA.

### Presenter Qualifications

- ✓ Coaching credentials are **not** required in order to be eligible for ICF CCE units, however, we do need to report each presenters' educational background, and coaching and other relevant credentials to ICF.

### Competencies

- ✓ Of the [ICF Core Competencies](#), a CCE-eligible session should **discuss at least 2**: (see Appendix for details)

Cluster	Core Competencies
Setting the Foundation	Meeting Ethical Guidelines and Professional Standards
	Establishing the Coaching Agreement
Co-creating the Relationship	Establishing Trust and Intimacy with the Client
	Coaching Presence
Communicating Effectively	Active Listening
	Powerful Questioning
	Direct Communication
Facilitating Learning and Results	Creating Awareness
	Designing Actions
	Planning and Goal Setting
	Managing Progress and Accountability

- ✓ CCE sessions should have a target audience. Which coaching specialties are present within this program?
  - Business/Organizations
  - Career/Transitions
  - Coaching other coaches
  - Executive coaching

### Program materials

- ✓ If you will be providing **handouts or other materials** to participants, please include a description of those here, and upload copies of what you will hand out.

## APPENDIX

### **APA STANDARD D: Expanded Definitions and Detail for Criterion 1.1 to 1.3.**

**Criterion D 1** needs to be satisfied in one or more of the following three ways. Although any given program may utilize two or more of these criteria, only one is required. Programs are not advantaged by selecting more than one of the three criteria to satisfy Criterion D 1. All three criteria (1.1, 1.2, and 1.3) are designed to satisfy Criterion D 1 in qualitatively different ways.

**Criterion 1.1** reflects program content that has been subjected to mechanisms of external professional peer review. This content can extend beyond empirical research (cf. Criterion 1.3) and may include theoretical, conceptual, case studies or secondary research reviews. Criterion 1.1 emphasizes the acceptability of program content based on peer review in journals, professional conferences, or venues of independent review that support the relevance and acceptability of program content for the discipline of psychology. As an example, a program focused on a new theoretical development concerning borderline personality disorder might use Criterion 1.1 to satisfy Criteria D 1 by citing peer reviewed publications (not necessarily empirical) or presentations that support this program content.

**Criterion 1.2** reflects program content that pertains to ethical, professional or regulatory developments relevant to the discipline of psychology. As an example, Criterion 1.2 might be used to satisfy Criterion D 1 in relation to a program that emphasizes the personal or legal risks and risk management associated with working with individuals with borderline personality disorders.

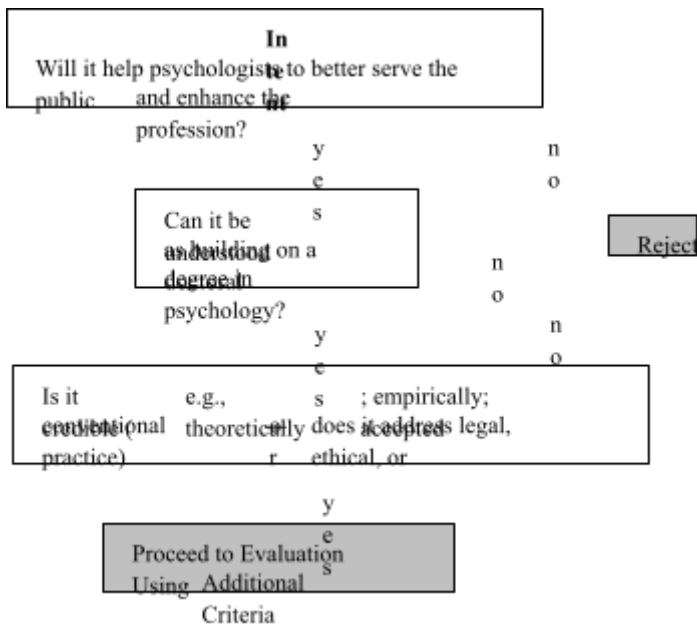
**Criterion 1.3** reflects program content that has been subjected to accepted research practices within psychology and has satisfied broader scientific scrutiny within the field. The emphasis of Criterion 1.3 is placed on the application of sound methodological practices and the availability of scientific support for the program content. As an example, a program focused on a new instrument for assessing, or a new intervention for treating, borderline personality disorder might use Criterion 1.3 to satisfy Criterion D 1 by clearly describing empirical work or citing published research that supports the validity of the program content.



### APA STANDARD D: Criteria and Processes for Determining Program CE-Eligibility

Acceptable programs must adhere to the definition of continuing education in that they improve service to the public and enhance contributions to the profession. Programs that address the personal or professional well-being of the psychologist must also demonstrate how they meet the above definition. Determination of eligibility is not made on the basis of topic alone. The responsibility is on the applicant to adequately establish the bridge between program content and the elements of the criteria. The more distant a topic appears from core disciplinary knowledge, the greater the responsibility of the sponsor to demonstrate the connection to improvement of services to the public and contributions to the profession.

The CE Committee will use the *Standards and Criteria for Approval of Sponsors of Continuing Education for Psychologists* to evaluate proposals. In so doing, they will employ the following evaluative steps:



#### Illustrative example: *Building Your Practice*

##### Insufficient learning objectives

- Compare advantages and disadvantages of buying versus renting office space*
- Learn to read a financial report*
- Maximize income from managed care*
- Develop successful strategies for locating sublettors for office space*
- Maximize case load through successful marketing*
- Design promotions to attract the self-pay clientele*

##### Acceptable learning objectives

- Identify the professional, legal and ethical issues related to buying versus renting office space*
- List three regulatory issues concerning electronic medical records and billing systems*
- Negotiate contracts for managed care services which maximize patient care*
- Analyze and minimize confidentiality concerns involving shared office space*
- Create ethically sound marketing tools and techniques*
- Provide effective client advocacy to third party payers*

*Note:* Insufficient learning objectives successfully articulate the advantages that might accrue to the practitioner, but do not extend these to underscore their value to the clients or the broader society that may follow from the knowledge gains associated with this program. Acceptable learning objectives, by comparison, clearly identify the

broader contributions that might support the welfare of the consumer and the society by addressing ethical and regulatory implications associated with successful business practice.

## **APA STANDARD D: Sample Response to D.1 – Course Content Requiring Citations**

### **D.1.1. Program content focuses on application of psychological assessment and/or intervention methods that have overall consistent and credible empirical support in the contemporary peer reviewed scientific literature beyond those publications and other communications devoted primarily to promotion of the approach.**

This criterion cannot be met by referencing books, chapters, monographs, or web-publications that are not demonstrably peer-reviewed. Reliance on non-mainstream journals of limited circulation must be supported by evidence that standard blind-review procedures are followed (i.e., in which the identity of peer reviewers is not known to the study authors, and identity of the study authors is not known to the peer reviewers).

There must be a clear linkage between the research cited and the program content. For example, simply listing a journal article on a broad or related issue is unacceptable until and unless the applicant specifically documents how the referenced research is relevant to the specific program content. It is not acceptable to assert that the program content has been included in peer-reviewed publications without providing specific references that are currently available to reviewers and support that assertion.

Providing an abstract that shows the relevant linkage or quoting from the conclusions section may be helpful in some circumstances, but doing so will rarely be sufficient without further explanation in the narrative provided for the relevant program.

It will rarely be necessary to provide full copies of journal articles or book chapters unless the reference is obscure or otherwise difficult to obtain (such as a government technical report).

If included references are authored or co-authored by the session presenter(s), please be sure to note this as a potential conflict of interest later in this application.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to clearly construct an intellectual bridge in their narrative between the content of the program and the references used to provide evidence in support of it.

#### **Examples of appropriate references:**

*American Psychological Association, Task Force on Evidence-Based Practice with Children and Adolescents. (2008). Disseminating evidence-based practice for children and adolescents: A systems approach to enhancing care. Retrieved from <http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/evidence.html>.*

*Smith, J.G., Robertson, L.M., & Jones, K.V. (2011). Examining the neuropsychosocial correlates of conduct disturbance in urban adolescents. National Institute of Health (Funded at \$100,000).*

*U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. (2003). Your guide to lowering blood pressure. (NIH Publication No. 03-5232). Retrieved from [http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/heart/hbp/hbp\\_low/hbp\\_low.pdf](http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/heart/hbp/hbp_low/hbp_low.pdf)*

### **D.1.2. Program content focuses on ethical, legal, statutory or regulatory policies, guidelines, and standards that impact psychological practice, education, or research**

In order to meet this criterion, the program content must be primarily focused on the topics listed. It is not sufficient to respond that the program fulfills this requirement simply because a mention of concern for ethical practice will be included in the presentation.

The general expectation is that programs meeting this criterion will include specific content, as evidenced by learning objectives, addressing ethical issues particularly relevant to the topic under consideration or entirely devoted to ethical, legal, statutory, or regulatory concerns.

At least three of the references must be explicitly linked to the program content. References that provide an overview of the entire APA ethics code (e.g., Knapp, 2011) cannot be used as the only references providing evidence for criterion D.1.2.

As an example, a program focusing on providing training regarding ethical issues involved in working with religious/spiritual issues in psychotherapy could be supported by references to works by the American Psychological Association (2007), chapter 10 of Frame (2003), Hathaway (2011), Knapp, Lemoncelli, and Vandecreek (2010), chapter 7 of Richards and Bergin (2005), and Tjeltveit (2011).

**Examples of appropriate references:**

*American Psychological Association Council of Representatives. (2007). Resolution on religious, religion-based and/or religion-derived prejudice. Washington, DC: Author.*

*Frame, M. W. (2003). Integrating religion and spirituality into counseling: A comprehensive approach. Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole.*

*Hathaway, W. L. (2011). Ethical guidelines for using spiritually oriented interventions. In J. D. Aten, M. R. McMinn, & E. L. Worthington, Jr. (Eds.), Spiritually oriented interventions for counseling and psychotherapy (pp. 65-81). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.*

*Knapp, S. J. (Ed.). (2011). APA handbook of ethics in psychology (Vols. 1-2). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.*

*Knapp, S., Lemoncelli, J., & Vandecreek, L. (2010). Ethical responses when patients' religious beliefs appear to harm their well-being. Professional Psychology: Research and Practice, 41, 405-412. Richards, P. S., & Bergin, A. E. (2005). A spiritual strategy for counseling and psychotherapy (2nd ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.*

*Tjeltveit, A. C. (2011). Religion, spirituality, and mental health. In S. J. Knapp (Ed.-in-Chief), M. C. Gottlieb, & L. D. Vandecreek (Assoc. Eds.), APA handbooks in psychology: APA handbook of ethics in psychology (Vol. 1, pp. 279-294). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.*

**D.1.3. Program content focuses on topics related to psychological practice, education, or research other than application of psychological assessment and/or intervention methods that are supported by contemporary scholarship grounded in established research procedures**

Sufficient evidence to meet this standard may require substantial accumulation of information. In some cases, the evidence relevant to this criterion will overlap that relevant for D.1.1. If applicants seek to show that the content has been supported using established research procedures and scientific scrutiny, applicants must provide specifics of the research, how it was conducted, by whom, under what controls, and with what level of review.

For purposes of responding to this criterion, "established procedures" include, among others, linking the research to the relevant nomological and theoretical network and development of testable hypotheses, appropriate research design, review by an IRB, use of appropriate and established scientific methods, and careful and full reporting of methods and results.

**Examples of appropriate references:**

*Barlow, D. H. (2008). Clinical handbook of psychological disorders: A step-by-step treatment manual (4th ed.). New York, NY: Guilford.*

Butler, A. C., Chapman, J. E., Forman, E. M., & Beck, A. T. (2006). *The empirical status of cognitive-behavioral therapy: A review of meta-analyses*. *Clinical Psychology Review*, 26, 17-31.

Fisher, J. E., & O'Donohue, W. T. (2006). *Practitioner's guide to evidence-based psychotherapy*. New York, NY: Springer.

Mitte K. (2005). *Meta-analysis of cognitive-behavioral treatments for generalized anxiety disorder: A comparison with pharmacotherapy*. *Psychological Bulletin*, 131, 785-795.

## ICF Core Competencies Overview

There is a detailed set of examples for each Core Competency and a comparison table to understand the certification-levels at which each Competency can be taught. [Please review that in full before making your selection.](#)

### Definitions of each Core Competency

#### A. Setting the Foundation

**1. Meeting Ethical Guidelines and Professional Standards**—Understanding of coaching ethics and standards and ability to apply them appropriately in all coaching situations.

**2. Establishing the Coaching Agreement**—Ability to understand what is required in the specific coaching interaction and to come to agreement with the prospective and new client about the coaching process and relationship.

#### B. Co-Creating the Relationship

**3. Establishing Trust and Intimacy with the Client**—Ability to create a safe, supportive environment that produces ongoing mutual respect and trust.

**4. Coaching Presence**—Ability to be fully conscious and create spontaneous relationship with the client, employing a style that is open, flexible and confident.

#### C. Communicating Effectively

**5. Active Listening**—Ability to focus completely on what the client is saying and is not saying, to understand the meaning of what is said in the context of the client's desires, and to support client self-expression.

**6. Powerful Questioning**—Ability to ask questions that reveal the information needed for maximum benefit to the coaching relationship and the client.

**7. Direct Communication**—Ability to communicate effectively during coaching sessions, and to use language that has the greatest positive impact on the client.

#### D. Facilitating Learning and Results

**8. Creating Awareness**—Ability to integrate and accurately evaluate multiple sources of information and to make interpretations that help the client to gain awareness and thereby achieve agreed-upon results.

**9. Designing Actions**—Ability to create with the client opportunities for ongoing learning, during coaching and in work/life situations, and for taking new actions that will most effectively lead to agreed-upon coaching results.

**10. Planning and Goal Setting**—Ability to develop and maintain an effective coaching plan with the client.

**11. Managing Progress and Accountability**—Ability to hold attention on what is important for the client, and to leave responsibility with the client to take action.