

Acceptable Content for Ethics and Cultural Competency Designations as outlined by ASWB.

***Ethics Course Content**

Ethics (Barker, 2003, pg. 147.) A system of moral principles and perceptions about right versus wrong and the resulting philosophy of conduct that is practiced by an individual, group, profession or culture. Emerging from value conflicts, expressions or guidelines distinguishing right from wrong and describing a community's positive moral standards.

Content should address specific core areas. The needs of course participants may determine how much emphasis each of these content areas will receive.

The core content areas are:

- History and evolution of values and ethics in social work
- Ethics theories (e.g. Abramson, Gilligan, Levy, Keith-Lucas, Loewenberg, Reamer, etc.)
- Professional standards of social work practice, such as exhibited in the ethical codes of the National Association of Social Workers, the Association of Canadian Social Workers, the Clinical Social Work Federation and the Council on Social Work Education.
- Legal requirements and other considerations for each jurisdiction that registers, certifies or licenses social workers
- Professional values and self-awareness about ethical professional behavior
- Ethical decision making processes and dilemma examples

***Cultural Competency**

Cultural competence refers to the process by which individuals and systems respond respectfully and effectively to people of all cultures, languages, classes, races, ethnic backgrounds, religions, and other diversity factors in a manner that recognizes, affirms, and values the worth of individuals, families and communities and protects and preserves the dignity of each (NASW Standards for Cultural Competence in Social Work Practice).

Cultural competence in social work continuing education implies a heightened consciousness of how people experience their uniqueness and deal with their differences and similarities within a larger social context.

Courses may reflect:

- Understanding of diversity between and within cultures
- Consciousness of the dynamics inherent when cultures interact
- Understanding of how personal and professional values may conflict with or accommodate the needs of diverse clients
- Understanding of history, traditions, values, family systems and artistic expressions of diverse cultural groups
- Methodological approaches, skills and techniques reflecting understanding of the role of culture in CE course content
- Appropriate use of language within the cultural and educational context
- Congruent values and principles demonstrating behaviors, attitudes, policies, and structures that enable a system, agency or group to work effectively cross-culturally