Health, Safety, Welfare (HSW) Guidelines

H**ealth, Safety,** W**elfare (**H**S**W**)**

AIA members, as well as other architects licensed in states with mandatory continuing educa­tion (MCE) requirements for license renewal, are required to complete a minimum number of hours of Health, Safety, and Welfare-related training. AIA members are required to take eight learning unit hours of continuing education per year in approved HSW topics. Because many architects are required to take HSW courses and these courses are in high demand by both AIA members and architects licensed in states with MCE in HSW, providers are encouraged to offer education in HSW.

The following section outlines the *three primary criteria* that AIA/CES courses must meet to be approved for HSW learning units. All three criteria must be met in order for your course to qualify for HSW.

H**EA**L**T**H**, SA**F**ETY,** W**E**LF**ARE (**H**S**W**)** D**E**F**I**N**E**D

**CRITERIA 1**

**Course content must directly support the HSW definition.**

**HSW definition**

Health, Safety, Welfare (HSW) in architecture is anything that relates to the structural integrity or soundness of a building or building site. Courses must intend to protect the general public.

**Health**

Aspects of architecture that have salutary effects among users of buildings or sites and address environmental concerns.

**Examples:** *Accessibility; acoustical, energy efficiency, mechanical, plumbing, and electrical systems; and materials.*

**Safety**

Aspects of architecture intended to limit or prevent accidental injury or death among users of the buildings or sites.

**Examples:** *Codes, regulations, natural hazards, life safety system—suppression, detection, alarm standards, provisions of fire-rated egress enclosures, automatic sprinkler systems, and stairs with correct rise-to-run proportions.*

**Welfare**

Aspects of architecture that engender demonstrable positive emotional responses among, or enable equal access by, users of buildings or sites.

**Examples:** *Building design and materials, methods and systems, construction contracting, ethics and regulations governing the practice of architecture, preservation, adaptive reuse, and the study of environmental issues.*

H**S**W**ACCE**P**TAB**L**E CO**U**RSE TO**P**ICS**

**CRITERIA 2**

**Course content must include one or more of the AIA/CES-acceptable HSW topics.**

**AIA/CES ACCE**P**TAB**L**E** H**S**W**TO**P**ICS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| AccessibilityAcousticsBuilding designCode of ethicsConstruction administrationConstruction contract laws, legal aspectsConstruction documents, services Construction functions materials, methods, and systemsEnergy efficiencyEnvironmental: asbestos, lead-based paint, toxic emissionsEnvironmental analysis and issues of building materials and systems  | Fire: building fire codes—flame spread, smoke contribution, explosivesFire safety systems: detection and alarm standardsInsurance to protect the owners of property and injured partiesInterior designLaws and regulations govern­ing the practice of architectureLife safety codesMaterials and systems: roofing/ waterproofing, wall systems, etc.Material use, function, and features | Mechanical, plumbing, electrical: system concepts, materials, and methods Natural hazards (earthquake, hurricane, flood) related to building designPreservation, renovation, restoration, and adaptive reuseSecurity of buildings, design Site and soils analysisSite designSpecification writingStructural issuesSurveying methods, techniquesSustainable design |

**CRITERIA 3**

**Course content must directly support the HSW definition in 75% of its content**

**75% of the learning objective (3 out of 4) must meet HSW definition**