

INTERNATIONAL
LEARNING
UNIT (ILU)
CONFERENCES



Learning Resources Network

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Information that Works

the leading training and consulting service for association meetings

The outcome based ILU measurement for conference attendance is superior to attendance-only CEUs. Some advantages in the conference setting:

- ✎ Learning is measured, not simply attendance.
- ✎ You can determine what participants are getting right, and what they are missing.
- ✎ You can stipulate a person not retake the same session year-after-year, thus encouraging new learning.

Here's a feasible way to initiate ILUs and transition to ILUs for your conferences.

1. Phase in the timetable.

Don't try to convert all your sessions to ILUs in one year. Phase in the session quizzes over a 3-4 year time frame. You can offer some concurrent sessions using the ILU standard, and others using the attendance-only CEU standard.

2. Select 6-10 to start.

Solicit volunteers, or ask your best presenters, to test out the ILUs with 6-10 concurrent sessions the first year.

Give them as much notice as possible.

3. One page quiz sheet.

Ask each presenter to write 5 questions for his or her session. Multiple choice questions will be the easiest to score. Ask for one correct answer, and 3-4 incorrect answers for each question.

4. Use paper scoring initially.

When in full use, online quiz taking and scoring will make the process go smoothly and take little staff time.

Initially, however, just copy enough quiz sheets for each concurrent session and score the quizzes manually.

5. Announce it.

In your program guide, put an asterisk next to your ILU sessions and tell people in order to get CEUs for that particular session, they have to take a short quiz.

6. Taking and scoring.

You can establish the guidelines for taking and scoring the quiz any way you want. Here's one way:

- Pass out the quiz sheets at the beginning of the concurrent session.
- Have the presenter announce at the beginning that those wishing CEUs for the session need to take a 5 question quiz.
- Have participants turn their quizzes into your registration desk or another central place.
- Consider allowing participants to retake the quiz if they did not pass the first time. This lowers stress levels and increases acceptance of the outcome based standard.

7. Second year.

The second year include another bunch of concurrent sessions using the ILU standard. For those concurrent sessions that stay the same from year to year, you can, if you wish, keep the same quiz from year to year.

Each year add more concurrent sessions to the ILU standard, until after 3-5 years your entire conference is on the ILU standard.

By transitioning to the ILU outcomes based standard, your conference concurrent sessions will gain credibility for learning outcomes. You will also have a wealth of data and information about your concurrent sessions on which to build and enhance the quality of the sessions.