

Judicial Branch Education Commission

Course Approval

A. Authority.

Under the North Dakota Rule on Continuing Judicial Education, Administrative Rule 36, the Commission has the authority to determine the number of continuing judicial education credits a participant receives for attending an education program.

B. Presumptively Approved Courses.

A course is presumptively approved for credit if sponsored by an organization listed in Rule 6(b) of the North Dakota Rules on Continuing Judicial Education.

C. Specific Topic Credits.

A presentation may qualify for credit in the following specific topics if the component meets the stated definition and covers a minimum of 30 minutes, consistent with Rule 6 of Administrative Rule 36. The segment must be clearly and appropriately described in the written materials and the time for the component must be clearly designated in the program schedule.

1. Ethics: A qualified ethics course or component is a clearly identified segment of a course or program which is devoted to one or more topics embraced in recognized formulations of rules of professional conduct or codes of professional responsibility applicable to judicial officers or to the systems and procedures established for enforcement and interpretation of those rules or codes;
2. Diversity and Inclusion: A qualified diversity and inclusion course or component is a clearly identified segment of a course or program which is devoted to one or more topics referring to attitudes or stereotypes that affect understanding, action, or decision-making in a conscious or unconscious manner or one that is devoted to access to justice or due process issues. Areas of focus for this credit may include gender, color, race, religion, ancestry, national origin, physical or mental disability, economic status, age, and sexual orientation.

D. Other Courses.

All other courses will be approved for credit upon a satisfactory showing that:

1. Judicial Officers:
 - a. Courses directly relate to and deal primarily with matters related to judging, the practice of law, professional responsibilities, or ethical issues of judges; and

- b. The course is taught by instructors qualified by practical or academic experience to teach the subject covered in the course.

2. Juvenile Court:

- a. Courses directly relate to and deal primarily with matters related to N.D.C.C 27- 20 and the mission of the Juvenile Court. The mission statement of the of the juvenile court states:

The Juvenile Court protects the best interests of children and addresses the unique characteristics and needs of children that come before the court as deprived, unruly and delinquent matters. Following the principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice, the mission of the North Dakota Juvenile Court is to promote public safety, hold juvenile offenders accountable, and increase the capacity of juveniles to contribute productively to their community. The courts empower victims, encourage community participation, and support parental responsibility.

- b. Other topics that may be approved for credit include using risk screening and assessment tools, case planning, family engagement, motivational interviewing, mental health, family law, juvenile code, officer safety, legal liabilities, ethics, courtroom proceedings, child welfare, suicide prevention and intervention, drug training, adolescent development, addiction, behavior management, community safety and security, and confidentiality.